

Graduates **2021**



Saying Thank You

Whether you're graduating from high school or college there were people along the way who have contributed to your success.

To show some gratitude, here is a list of ways you can show the people you love you are thankful for them.

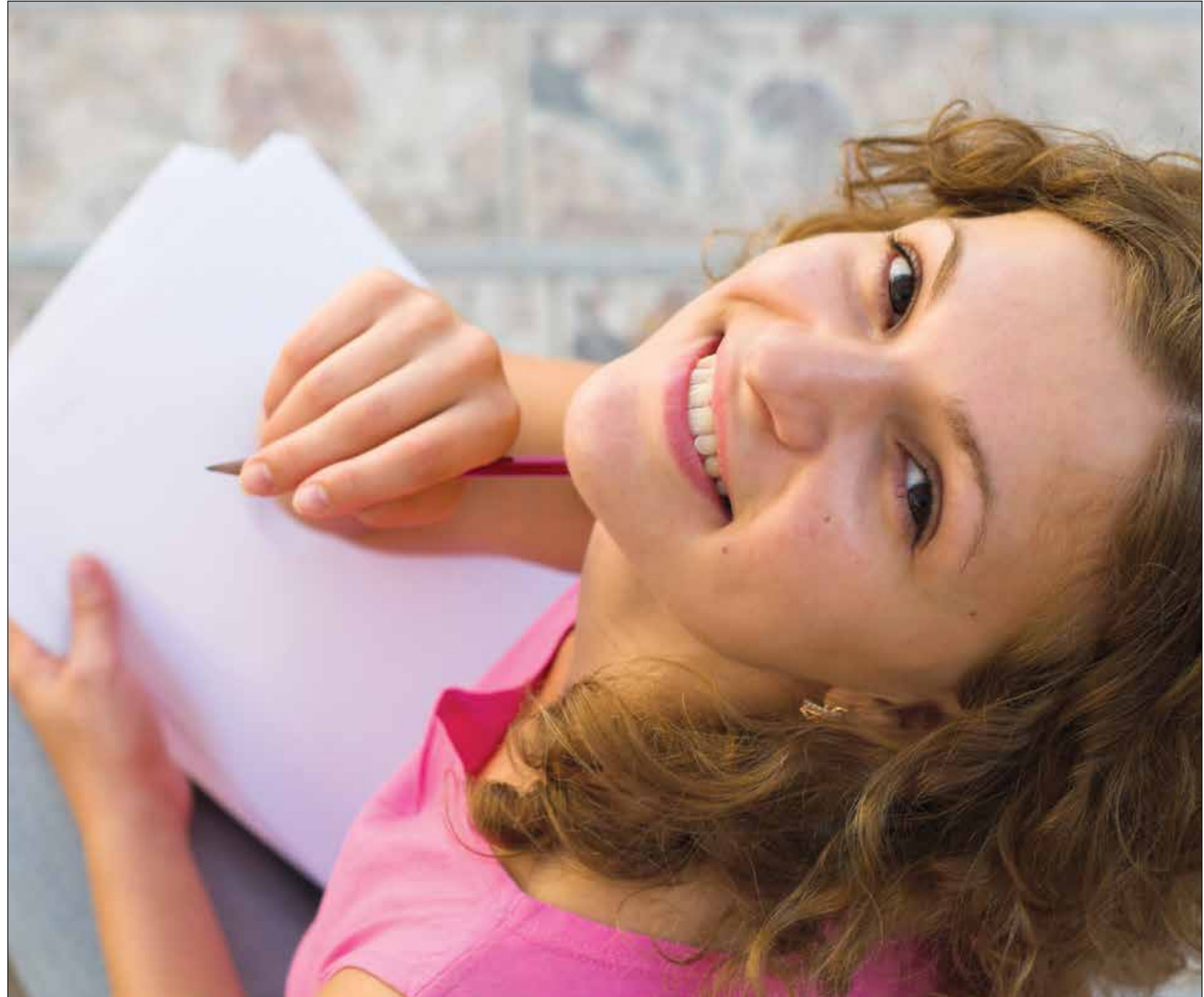
THANK YOU NOTES

A thank you to the loved ones for supporting you on your journey to graduation doesn't have to be complex or expensive. Most people are just glad to be invited or included in the ceremony, but if you are looking to actually share your gratitude, a note of thanks would be perfect.

A thank you note can go a long way. You can write a letter that you send to different people, or personalize each note. A thank you note can be written on a card you can find at a local stationery shop or you can make them yourself to add more of a personal touch to each card.

GRADUATION PICTURES

One of the most common types of thank you notes to your loved ones are in the form of a graduation picture. Find a local photographer who can take professional photos of you. Remember, people will have these for a very long time so you want to make sure they



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are as high quality as they can be.

Graduation photos are great gifts. You can even write a personalized message on the back of each photo for each person or family.

WHO TO GIFT

If you are limited by the price of each card, photo or any other factor and wondering who to gift, here's a list of potential people or families to gift for your graduation.

Whether you send a card or photo, there should be some sort of acknowledgment from you along with the card or photo you send.

Send a gift to any special teachers, coaches or relatives

that have helped you in your journey in school.

You might even think back to your grade school days and send a gift to a teacher or coach who inspired you when you were younger.



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Graduation Gift Guide

There are different gifts that will be meaningful to different kinds of graduates.

College graduates are heading into the work world, so the best gift for them is something that will give them a head start or get them on their feet.

A high school graduate is moving on to the next step of their life, which might be college or heading to the work world, if college isn't in their plans.

Here are some tips on gifts for the graduate in your life.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Your high schooler has just graduated and is moving on to the next step

of their lives. The gift you get them doesn't necessarily have to be a practical one. Most people today focus on getting their child a car or some type of high-tech gadget. Although those are great gifts, not every family can afford to do so.

Jewelry can be a great gift to show your graduate how proud you are of them graduating.

A necklace or even some sort of ring is a great symbol of encouragement they can always have with them and wear to keep them motivated during hard times.

If your graduate is going to college, you can always get them ready by buying them new clothes to begin the new chapter of their lives. Buy them a new outfit they can feel very confident in.

Graduating high school is a great accomplishment. To celebrate the moment, buy your child some diploma accessories. Purchase a frame to hang their diploma in their dorm room or apartment, which can help motivate them to get through the next phase of their school career.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Your college graduate has finally begun the first steps to their real life career by graduating college. The gifts

for them may be more practical than you would buy for a high school graduate. Here are some gift ideas to help get some ideas flowing.

Usually the first step after graduating college is applying for jobs. A great gift idea is an interview suit or other interview attire. Depending on what field or job they are applying for, start off with purchasing them a few pair of dress pants and shirts they can wear to their first day on the job.

If your family can afford to do so, buying a car for your graduate can be a great gift. They will need to travel to their interviews and new job, so if the old car they have been driving doesn't make the cut, consider helping them upgrade.

Writing a Graduation Speech

Here are some tips to help you ace your speech.

PREPARE YOUR SPEECH

This may seem like common sense but some students try to write their speech at the last minute or even attempt to do their speech on the fly with only a few bullet points to lead them.

You want to make sure you prepare and sit down to think about what you want to say.

CHOOSE YOUR THEME

Most speeches have a theme. Will your theme offer advice to your classmates, reflect on memories or thank those who have had an effect on your journey?

Consider whether your theme will be the only theme or if you will combine a few different themes together.

If you decide to focus on gratitude, ask yourself these questions.

- Who are you thanking?
- What are you thanking the group or person for?
- How did their contribution, time, or encouragement help you?

EDIT YOUR SPEECH

Once you have written your speech it's a good idea to edit and make sure it is the best version it can be. Read your speech aloud to family, friends or a teacher. This will help you catch any inappropriate jokes, mistakes or things in your speech people won't understand. It's easy to get carried away by your speech and



If you have been called to give a graduation ceremony speech or even a speech in front of family and friends at a gathering, there are a few things to keep in mind.

think everyone will understand every concept.

After you take time to edit and revise your speech the

next step is to work on your delivery. Read your speech out loud to yourself, family or friends to work on the delivery

of any jokes or any stories. Delivery of your speech has a great impact on how people will perceive it.

Once you've prepared your speech take it to the faculty in charge of the ceremony to make sure it's approved.

Grad Party Guide

A good party can show how proud you are of your graduate.

Take time to plan and coordinate their party with friends and family to make it the best it can be.

SET THE BUDGET

Obviously you want to make sure each expense is used wisely so you can make the party the best and most affordable it can be. Set a budget for each aspect of the party and figure out who will be contributing to party expenses.

Perhaps consider co-hosting a party if you know two or more people who are graduating at the same time. A big joint party can be especially affordable with different families all coming together to celebrate.

Consider whether the party will be invite only or an open house. This can help you set the budget.

CHOOSE A THEME

A themed party can make the party more fun for your graduate and your guest. A theme can make finding the right decorations easier. Colors, decorations and food can all easily be solved with a themed party.

A theme doesn't need to be complex. A simple theme can make the whole process easy and fun for all. Here are some themes to help you get started on the planning process:

- Decades ('80s being the most popular).



- Pop culture (favorite movie, television show or book).

- Sports team.

SENDING INVITATIONS

Be sure to send invitations ahead of time. Determine what

the invitations will look like and how many you need to make. You can save money with a digital online invitation.

FOOD PREPARATION

After you have set a theme,

your budget and established who will be attending the party, the last step to take is the preparation of food. Decide whether your family will make the food or order from a caterer. Consider what kind of foods

your graduate enjoys and which would be the most cost effective for your budget.

Keep your guest list in mind when ordering drinks to be sure there is enough for everyone, including children.

Celebration Ideas

Planning your own celebration with friends is a rite of passage for the high school graduate. Here are some tips to plan a memorable event.

PLAN, PLAN, PLAN

You finally did it! You are at the final step of your high school or college career and you are excited to begin the new chapter of your life. Before you set out to begin your next chapter, don't forget to celebrate the big occasion with friends.

Remember the more people involved, the better the celebration and the more affordable it will be for everyone if you are splitting costs.

Consider having your school or a student organization plan a celebration. Consider that you are eliminating the chance that someone will drink and drive.

If you are having a party with a group of friends, get together to decide which location would be the best. Are you going to celebrate at a friend's home or maybe at a restaurant?

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Planning is the first step but the next and most crucial step is taking your plans and turning them into actions. Ask your parents or faculty to volunteer to chaperone or help you find the right place for



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your celebration.

Most school graduation celebrations are hosted by volunteer parents, and usually parents of seniors are expected to contribute in some way.

If you are planning a trip, ask parents to chaperone your trip

and make sure everyone gets to and from their destination safely. You want to have fun with friends, and you also want to make sure you are doing so safely.

Having a parent can make getting flight tickets, hotels and

other arrangements easier.

GRADUATION CELEBRATION IDEAS

A destination or party aren't the only ways for you to go out and celebrate your graduation. If you need other ideas, search

for events happening in town. Here are some ideas of fun ways to celebrate:

- Comedy show.
- Karaoke.
- Carnival game.
- Movie marathon.
- Dance with a DJ.

Graduation Apparel

It's one of the biggest nights of your life, and you want to dress your best to celebrate the grand occasion.

Here are some tips to help you dress the best you can for the grand occasion.

GRAD ATTIRE FOR MEN

The right suit can make a man feel confident and proud as ever, and you'll need that confidence as you make your way across a stage in front of hundreds or thousands of people during your graduation. Take the time to choose the right suit, color combinations and fit for your graduation.

Since you are wearing a cap and gown over your outfit, you want to make sure the parts that will show look good on you. If you don't have the budget to get a suit, then a nice collared shirt, tie and dress pants will do.

Begin with a classic and always stylish white collared long sleeve shirt, black or blue pants, a brown or black belt and blue or black dress pants. Coordinate your tie and sock color with your school's colors to show spirit and pride in your school.

Although you are wearing a cap, there will be a time you will take it off and show your hair, so you want to make sure you get a fresh haircut and style your hair before the ceremony.

GRAD ATTIRE FOR WOMEN

Whether you are graduating college or high school, there are different styles of dress you can wear. If you're graduating high school, you want to wear something bright and colorful as most graduations take place during the warm spring months. Show your style off with a long flowing spring dress.

Or you can show out with a business form-fitting dress in monochromatic colors.

Today more and more women are wearing business attire to their graduations. The look begins with dress pants and a collared shirt. Then add some color.

One thing to note is you should wear shoes you can easily walk in. Some graduations are held in basketball gyms, arenas and even on football fields.

Wear heels or shoes that are comfortable to you and in which you can walk in easily. The last thing you want is to stumble as you walk to receive your diploma.

Whatever you wear, make sure you are confident and comfortable. After all, it is your special day.



Graduation Ceremony

Your graduation ceremony is an important event. Here are some tips to help the graduation ceremony go smoothly.

GET ALL THE INFORMATION

There's a lot going on during a graduation ceremony and a lot of information you need. Dates, cap and gown costs, fittings, senior photos and more. It's important you get all the information you can as soon as you can.

Along with the dates and certain cost information, you also need to get information on parking and how many people can attend your graduation.

Some graduations allow as many people to come as you'd like, and others give each graduate a ticket for a certain number of guests allowed, mostly to make sure people can park and there are enough seats for everyone.

If you aren't purchasing your cap and gown, you'll need to find a rental cap and gown with plenty of time before your graduation. Many other students from different universities and high schools are graduating and looking for the same color cap and gown. Make sure you get yours in time so you aren't scrambling last minute to find one.



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ORGANIZE YOUR FAMILY

One of the most difficult parts of graduation is organizing your whole family to arrive at the same location on time.

Usually a good rule of

thumb is to have your family arrive anywhere between 45 minutes and an hour before the ceremony actually begins to find good parking and good seating at the ceremony.

Make sure your family is

aware of the seating limitations and the limited parking so they show up as soon as possible.

ENJOY YOUR DAY

It's been a long journey to

reach your graduation day. Make sure you enjoy every last bit of it with friends and family, and don't forget to thank those who have helped you along the way. This is your day to enjoy.