

00:06

- Good afternoon, family, faculty

00:09

and fellow graduates.

00:11

I'd first like to thank you for the opportunity

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to speak in front of you

00:15

and the pleasure of sharing the vibrations and emotions

00:18

filling this beautiful park.

00:20

Second, I would like to congratulate the class of 2021.

00:24

We made it!

00:26

(audience applauds)

00:30

My name is Alessandra Eduarda Kambundo.

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I am originally from Angola and today I'm receiving a degree

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in entrepreneurship with a minor in global business.

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About five years ago when I first landed in Boston

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I thought I knew how to speak English.

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I was confident that all the Beyonce songs

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would give me an English 101 class.

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I thought I would all the single ladies my way

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around downtown Boston.

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And as you can imagine, I was completely wrong.

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Then, however, five months after leaving here

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I learned how to speak English.

01:01

And I found out that I actually have an accent

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and I felt so insecure about it.

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So all throughout college I tried losing it

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by pronouncing certain words the way other people

01:11

were pronouncing them.

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But yet, the accent never left.

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So as I was writing the speech, I had all these ideas

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of what I wanted to tell you about, but I was not certain

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whether it would be good enough or relatable.

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Then I remembered my accent

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and that made me even more insecure.

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So I asked myself, who am I speaking to?

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And who am I speaking for?

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So here's who I'm speaking to.

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I am speaking to the best generation ever.

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I am speaking to a generation that is woke

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and fights for equality, inclusion, respect, and kindness

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and a generation of women and men

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that besides spending way too much time on Instagram

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and TikTok is a generation that believes

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in themselves and the power of changing the world.

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Then, I am speaking to my fellow international students.

02:00

(audience applauds)

02:04

I am speaking to my fellow international students

02:07

because you have traveled thousands of miles away from home,

02:11  
learned a new culture, a new language, a new lifestyle,  
02:15  
staying away from your families in order  
02:17  
to fulfill a dream of getting a higher quality education.  
02:21  
Then, I am speaking to you specifically  
02:24  
because we all took a leap of faith and entrusted  
02:27  
this university with our future.  
02:29  
And not only did they transform our lives,  
02:32  
but they incentivized us to speak  
02:34  
up and show off our accents  
02:36  
because it is a clear reflection of our people, our story  
02:39  
and our culture.  
02:41  
(audience applauds)  
02:46  
In the last four years we have gone through social,  
02:50  
political and even economic hardships that have shaped us  
02:53  
in amazing ways.  
02:55  
But in the last year specifically,  
02:57  
we have been through a pandemic  
02:58  
and many of lost loved ones, our jobs,  
03:01  
business opportunities, and et cetera.  
03:04  
However, as unfortunate as this pandemic has been  
03:07  
we cannot fail to acknowledge that,  
03:10  
sorry, we cannot fail to acknowledge  
03:13  
that it has shown us how much we care for our community.

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It has enlightened in us our entrepreneurial capacities

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and it has given us a break from our busy lives

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to plan out for our future and live life,

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not in theory, but in action.

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So as we close this chapter of our lives

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let's make a decision to grab onto our accents,

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discipline and all the knowledge that Suffolk University

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has provided us, go out into our countries, our cities,

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our workspace, and represent our university

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making it the symbol of diversity, acceptance,

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intellectuality, humility and professionalism all while

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our being our truest selves.

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And remember, this commencement is a celebration

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of the end of this season and the beginning of the next one.

04:02

So to the Suffolk University class of 2021,

04:05

congratulations and good luck on your next journey.

04:07

God bless you.

04:08

(audience applauds)

English

All Graduation ceremony Recently uploaded Watched