

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed judges, and my lovely competitors, I stand before you today, absolutely flabbergasted by the fact that I've somehow managed to clinch victory in this competition. Honestly, I came in with the bar set low--so low, in fact, that I had to dig just to find it! Yet, here we are.

First, I'd like to thank my parents for their unwavering support, which they provided from the comfort of home through constant text messages asking, "What do you even do in these speech contests?"

To my teachers, thank you for your guidance and for giving me the most crucial piece of advice: "Please, try to be on time for once." And to my friends, who said, "Just be yourself," I can't decide whether that was wise or a terrible risk you took on my behalf.

Now, to all my fellow competitors, I have to say, you all were so amazing that I'm tempted to demand a recount. Your speeches were so inspiring, heartfelt, and eloquent, that I almost reconsidered my plan to focus on memorizing the pizza menu for post-competition celebrations instead of my speech. Almost.

In conclusion, thank you for this honor. I promise to use it wisely, most likely as a really impressive fun fact for two truths and a lie.

Remember, winning isn't everything-- but it sure does feel good!

Thank you, everyone, and don't forget to tip your waiter!