

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed faculty, and honored guests. First I want to congratulate the entire class of 2024 on this accomplishment. We did it! May have taken us four years, but hey, we finally got around to it.

Second, I want to commend the Armwood staff for leaving this wonderful microphone unattended. Now they don't know this, but some of you do. When Lucas Hudson gets on stage and finds a microphone, you get the "whole" character.

But there have been a lot of people who have put in a lot of work molding this character. I want to thank my Mom and Dad for putting up with all my nonsense and pushing me harder than I wanted them to at the time, but I now look back and see it was for the best. My sister for being there to annoy me out of doing anything too stupid. My grandparents, Aunt, and Uncle for providing that extra encouragement. My small group leader, Mr. Weil for being there for me and leading me down the right path since third grade. Ms. Lippincott for being there for me and every other Collegiate Student here to help us navigate the challenges we have encountered. And a special thank you to the Amazing Mrs. James for being there for me no matter what time it was. Thank you, Rutherford Institute for defending my civil liberties. And now for the one who feels pretty left out right now, My big brother. I want to thank you for setting such a good example for me and being the one who understands me better than anyone else... but that would be too gushy.

With my two minutes coming to an end, it goes to show just how little time we have. And if I learned anything from these past 4 years, it's that the little amount of time we have goes by so fast. And so I leave you with this, cherish your time. Take it to love the people you care about and those who care about you.

And lastly, use it to consider your purpose here on Earth. Whether it's to be the friend who is always there for others, the mentor who guides people, or be the one who loves. I have the privilege of knowing someone who loves each and every one of you so much that He will do anything to be with you. That's the love of Jesus, the God who saved me. He can heal you of your pain, your depression, your worry, your brokenness. He can heal you, the same way He healed me. If you have any questions about Jesus, I would love to talk to you, and you can find me after the ceremony or reach out through Instagram at LucasHudson.

Armwood High
Collegiate Val
Lucas Hudson