

## Figure 1.6: How to Create a Commencement Speech Blackout Poem

1. Select a commencement speech using the search criteria provided. You can also search for a person you admire who might have delivered a TED Talk or commencement speech.

There may be more than you realize!

Did you know that:

- Chadwick Boseman delivered the commencement address to the Howard University Class of 2018: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIHZypMyQ2s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RIHZypMyQ2s)
  - Lady Gaga delivered a virtual commencement address for the Class of 2020: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEd1FBW3H70&t=1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEd1FBW3H70&t=1s)
  - Taylor Swift delivered the New York University 2022 commencement address: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBG50aoUwII](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBG50aoUwII)
2. After you choose your speech, copy the text into a document. Read the speech closely, searching for words or phrases that resonate with you because they express something that you agree with; demonstrate a shared value; are rich in vivid, sensory imagery; or you otherwise find them meaningful or inspiring.
  3. Narrow down these words and phrases until you only have eight to ten. Draw a box around these words or phrases on the page. These are the words that will create your new poem.
  4. Decide how you will silence the rest of the page to create your poem by crossing out or drawing an image or graphic over the words you are not using in your newly created blackout poem. You can do this digitally, by hand, or a combination of both.