Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, Honorable Ambassador Solomont, and my fellow Suffolk Graduates. I would like to begin by congratulating the dashing class of 2012. Drenched in adulation and sealed in unblemished deeds, we have made it. Know it to be true that this very moment would not have been possible without the valiant efforts of our angelic Parents, our studious Faculty, our incomparable Staff, Suffolk President, and the entire Suffolk Administration. Words cannot begin to describe our deepest gratitude to you all for it is unfathomable in its reach, absolute in its praise, and revered in its admiration.

Indeed, there are days to be forgotten my fellow graduates, today is not one of them. For quite some time we have called the halls of Donahue, Sawyer, Archer, Sargent, and Fenton our home. Our feet have graced the meandering paths of Temple, Ashburton, Derne, and Tremont. We have laid firm grounds in friendship, comradeship, and loyalty with people from here and far beyond; some who we regrettably lost, but in spirit we know that they are here with us on this scorching afternoon. We diligently listened to instruction from our professors and shared our knowledge and views with our colleagues. We refined our values and exerted ourselves to the pursuit of a quality education for our gratification and for those who supported us along the way. Each and every one of us brought with them a different story and generously added on to the Suffolk legacy that over a century ago Gleason Archer began when he moved the school from Roxbury to that familiar, tasteful piece of land on Beacon Hill. Upon closer scrutiny, though I come from a small Kenyan village, my story is not different from yours.

I have seen how survival under the harsh conditions of rural Africa could force men to succumb to her whims so I took advice from the elders and indulged in the instructions of a scholarly order amassing invaluable wisdom amid disparities and uncertainties. Most of my time was spent in school and shepherding livestock where I found solace in the pages of books and the expanse of the savanna. I looked upon the future with a shining radiance that prompted me to crave for change. These cravings have brought me thus far as I am sure they have brought you. Rightfully so, our accomplishment today serves as testament that we can do much with precious little no matter where we come from.

Looking back, it appears that we were invited to a world that was not a secret, but well hidden. We craved for guidance and astute direction. We had to know what to look for, but also how to look. We had to employ ourselves to see this world by travelling on the unenvious road of trials and tribulations. Every one of us has journeyed this road, the road which many before us have traveled. Their strength became our strength just like those who came before them were theirs. It became true to us that if they could make it during those harsh times, we could make it as well. A point we dared not forget when the journey became tougher.

Be ye not of faint hearts and keep your ears and eyes open, the evidence is all around us. From the richest man sitting in the comforts of his mansion to the beggar on the pavement negotiating
his next morsel, the struggle remains the same. We all play an integral part of our society, and in
the midst of dire circumstances much more will be demanded from us. As we part ways it leads
me to wonder, are we part and parcel of this fabric that has taken years to weave? Are we the
very strands that enter into the complex tapestry of our future? Time will weigh our actions, but
my dear friends what are our actions if they bear no fruits and what are our motives if they are
not pure? Let it be our greatest desire to be vessels of change, voices for the weak, and
champions of equality.

I echo Balzac’s sentiments when he said that to know the infinite of our deepest feelings we must
in youth cast our lead into those great lakes upon whose shores we live. Therefore, as we stand
here today to endure yet another trial, we must be aware of the world in which we have been
thrust into; a world ripe with change begging for great representation, wisdom, and the right dose
of mental toughness to lead us to the next phase. We are students and citizens of the world and as
such no one should be absolved from the responsibility to act. A German poet once said that if
you treat an individual as he is, he will remain as he is. But if you treat him as if he were what he
ought and could be, he will become what he ought to be and could be. Finally, I urge you all to
apply yourselves unsparingly and affirm as Hemingway did that there is nothing noble in being
superior to your fellow men, true nobility is being superior to your former self. It is an honor to
share this day with you. Let us in unison proudly raise the flag of victory. We deserve every
second of this joyous occasion. Gather yourselves, these moments define us. Thank you!