

## PAPER BAG SPEECH SAMPLE

### Introduction & Thesis:

Good afternoon, my name is Ms. Wolbers. I'm excited to share some of my life with you over the next few minutes. **In this bag are three carefully selected symbols that represent my personal values.** Through my discussion of these three objects, you will hopefully recognize that my personal values reflect a lifelong love of learning, teamwork and finding courage **AND** as a side effect, you may also realize that I am a gigantic nerd.

### Body:

- **Symbol 1: Continuous Learning**

**[remove first object from bag]**

My first symbol may seem rather flat and unremarkable, as it comes in the form of a sheet of paper. **BUT** this object is my teaching degree. Of course, **this represents a significant achievement in higher education and the continuous learning** that goes along with reaching that achievement. However, it also represents a significant surprise. When I was in high school, I had no plans of pursuing a university degree. I hadn't even thought about it. This was not because I disliked school; but because no one in my family had ever previously attended university. It was something that I did not think I would ever be capable of doing. However, my immense curiosity and **love of learning**, encouraged me to take a chance and apply to UBC. To my delight, I was accepted. Then of course, I pushed my obsession with learning even further, deciding to pursue a teaching degree, as I quickly realized I wanted to spend my life in the classroom FOREVER.

- **Symbol 2: Teamwork**

**[remove second object from bag]**

My second symbol comes as a pair, and as something you may recognize: PS5 controllers. My first console was a Nintendo NES that I shared with my older brother and sister. When I couldn't quite get past Bowser's Castle on my own, my brother would help me find the best path over the lava pits, under the Thwomps, and through the sea of Bullet Bills. Though my console preferences have evolved, **these two controllers represent my deep appreciation for the teamwork** that can be explored on any system. Sure, I could have brought only one. Anyone can fly solo when playing video games, and hoard all of that beautiful XP for themselves. But, the satisfaction of defeating The Destroyer by coordinating your skills as a Siren, with your partner's Assassin skills (or taking down Bowser as Mario with Luigi at your side) comes with an extra layer of satisfaction. Not only do you level up your own character, but you helped someone else find success and level up as well.

- **Symbol 3: Courage**

**[remove third object from bag]**

*My third and final object also represents someone who you may know. This little Spider-man figurine was given to me by one of my childhood friends in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. As a kid, I was obsessed with comic books. As the resident oddball amongst my classmates, I was attracted to the bright colours, ridiculous language, and the great acts of courage. After reading every random comic I could sneak out of my brother's room, Spider-man quickly became my favourite. To me he represented the idea that even the smallest, nerdiest kid could find the courage to face down their most venomous challenges. This little action figure has followed me in cardboard boxes through countless moves across cities, provinces and even the globe. He has taken a seat of honour in the cup-holder of my car, atop high bookshelves, and even next to the pillow of my hospital bed. Like Spider-man himself, **this little figurine serves as a symbolic reminder that even when we feel small, we can still show great courage.***

**Concluding Statement:**

*Knowing what my values are and living according to them is important to share with others. Not only does it inform others about what you stand for, but allows them to better understand the stories you have to tell.*