

# Honor Graduates!

## Goals

- To help children honor students graduating from nursery school, elementary, high school, scouts, or other programs
- To practice interviewing and writing skills



## Overview:

Students interview upcoming graduates and, based on these interviews, create certificates honoring the graduates for their special accomplishments. Students who are graduating themselves can complete the exercise to acknowledge their own accomplishments.

## Materials

- “Graduate Interview” template
- “Graduate Award” template

## Directions

1. Tell students they are going to interview upcoming graduates and design awards to celebrate the graduates’ success. If students have family members or friends who are graduating, they can interview them. Otherwise, you can invite a graduating class from your school to visit your classroom. Have each student interview a different graduate or let students work in pairs.
2. Have students complete the “Graduation Interview” form during the interview. Encourage students to think of additional questions. If a yearbook is available, have students review it ahead of time to learn more about the graduates. Remind students to keep careful notes. They might also take photos or record the interview.
3. Ask students to tell about the graduates they interviewed. What were their biggest challenges? What were they especially proud of? What people and things will they remember most? Then ask students to think of something for which they would like to honor graduates and complete the “Graduate Awards”.
4. If possible, have students present the certificates personally. See Extensions below for ideas.

### ***Stationery Studio Extensions***

- Invite the graduates for a return visit so students can present their certificates.
- Have students choose the “Graduation” border or a different design related to the graduates’ interests and, using the friendly letter format, write letters inviting the graduates to a classroom ceremony. If students will not be presenting the certificates in person, they can write letters to accompany the awards.
- Graduating students can write letters to themselves in which they outline their goals and dreams for the future.
- Teachers can use the readymade certificate or another *Stationery Studio* design to create certificates to honor their own students.