

January 16, 2013
Homework #7

The video I decided to watch was the “Calling All Business Minds” speech by President Barack Obama. President Obama has been an inspiration of mine for quite some time. He broke a color barrier that has existed for hundreds of years in our country and changed the way that many felt simply through his success. He surprised me. Even though I am from a relatively new and progressive generation, I thought it would be a very long time before I ever saw a person of color in the White House running the country. For that reason I had originally chosen to be in the Obama group, but was moved.

This clip from a speech that President Obama gave at a college graduation was extremely frank – almost to the point of being too much so. The President laid out all of the issues in today’s world, of which there are many, and although one might think that that would create an unnecessarily gloomy mood at a graduation I didn’t really get that sense. Instead what I felt was a man trying to relay to the masses that they had the power to persevere and rise above their condition. That although we were facing the toughest economic slump since The Great Depression, there was still hope for us because we are fighters. That although we were involved in two wars at the time, that the age for peace was not behind us but rather yet to come. The President did an amazing job of taking these difficult situations and spinning them around to give those in the audience inspiration and hope. He worked almost like an artist with his words. With each utterance another brush stroke passed over the yet unfilled canvases that were the graduates of Arizona State University. His oratorical skill is impeccable. It is also for this reason that I admire him. He speaks in a way that politicians just don’t seem to utilize anymore. It is a way that has the power to uplift men and women in spite of how downtrodden they may be.

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