Name: Kevin Lei

Speech Title: What it Means to be an Aggie

Speech Purpose: Inform the audience about what being Aggie means to us

Speech Thesis: Being an Aggie is valuable

Introduction

1. Attention material: I’ve spent two semesters here at Texas A&M, but I’ve never been to a football game, never been to midnight yell, never been to silver taps, and the only maroon in my closet is the free class of 2026 shirt I got from my NSC.
2. Thesis: Despite not participating in traditions, being at Texas A&M has significantly transformed my personal, social, and academic perspectives, drawing me closer to understanding the essence of being an Aggie.
3. Preview: Today, I'll share how my journey at Texas A&M, from its vast campus to its rigorous academic setting, has reshaped my view on relationships and personal growth.

*TRANSITION: This journey began with the fall semester of 2022.*

Body

1. The vastness of Texas A&M and the distance from my home in New Jersey created a unique social landscape that taught me lessons in independence and the value of relationships.
   1. The large campus and many students were my first lesson in becoming more independent and responsible.
      1. A&M is large and complex, just like the real world. Although this can seem intimidating, I tried to use this to motivate myself to better navigate complexity.
      2. I had to make decisions for myself constantly, no matter how important or trivial.
   2. The distance from my home intensified my appreciation for past relationships and fueled my drive for new ones at Texas A&M.
      1. My friends from high school were like my second family.
      2. Realizing their importance, I looked for similar people who I could connect with.

*TRANSITION:* *While the social landscape of Texas A&M shaped my interactions, the academic environment of Texas A&M helped cultivate my diligence and introspective side.*

1. Texas A&M's academic rigor, especially within the College of Engineering, molded my motivation and instilled a deeper philosophical perspective in me.
   1. The "Entry to a Major Process" in the College of Engineering was both a challenge and a motivator.
      1. Freshmen engineers, like I was, navigate a general curriculum with aspirations of our desired majors.
      2. The competition for the Computer Science major and the necessity to maintain a 3.75 GPA became a beacon of motivation.
   2. The academic challenges I faced went beyond the classroom, leading me to question the purpose behind my actions.
      1. Confronting rigorous courses made me reflect on the reasons behind my ambitions.
      2. This academic journey led me to adopt a more philosophical approach to life, valuing introspection and seeking deeper meaning.

*TRANSITION:* *From personal connections to academic endeavors, my experience at Texas A&M extends beyond traditions*

Conclusion

Summary statement: At Texas A&M, it's not just the traditions that define our experience. It's the personal growth, the bonds we forge, and the academic challenges that truly embody being an Aggie.

Concluding remarks: While I might never be the most traditional Aggie, my unique journey at Texas A&M has imprinted its values deeply within me, making me a true Aggie in spirit and growth.

References *(in APA style)*