

[REDACTED]  
Hopkinton, MA 01748

June 21, 2004

Mr. Brian Lamb  
C-SPAN  
400 North Capitol St NW  
Suite 650  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Lamb:

My daughter graduated from St. Anselm College on May 22, 2004, providing me with the privilege of hearing your commencement speech. I thought your speech was exceptional for two reasons.

First, I have been giving similar advice to my three children for years, although I don't have fourteen points. Immediately after the graduation ceremony all three of my children said to me, "Dad, we thought of you during Brian Lamb's speech because you are always telling us to have a strong handshake, look people in the eye when you talk to them, have a nice pair of shoes and it's not what you know, it's who you know." Usually when I give advice to my children, they stare at me with a blank look on their face. Now they appear to be listening. (At least part of the time.) But I didn't know they were listening until graduation day when they heard your speech.

Secondly, after St. Anselm's graduation I heard various sound bites on TV and read commencement speeches from other college graduation ceremonies. Almost all of those speeches were "visionary". They go something like - you can make a positive impact on society; you can change the world; you can accomplish great goals; if anyone can do it, you can. We all need to hear those speeches occasionally because it helps to pump us up and motivate us, but it doesn't give us anything we can hang our hats on.

Personally, I'd rather have someone who has been in the trenches tell me how to improve my career and give me advice that I can use on the job now. Your talk provided solid, real information that a new college graduate (and many others) can utilize today and continue to use throughout their lives. What a great idea!

I taped your fourteen points to the front of our refrigerator and I occasionally remind my children of specific points. I want to thank you for giving me some credibility with my children and especially for the good advice. I'll see that it is put to good use. I wish you the best.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]