

**The 21st-century Valedictorian and the Battle for First Place**  
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Do you think that the practice of naming a valedictorian justified? Do the potential benefits of naming a valedictorian outweigh the potential harms?

How does the practice of naming a valedictorian support the goals of education? In what ways are they in conflict? What about the practice of naming multiple valedictorians?

The article examines a number of different perspectives: students, counselors, superintendents. We might also consider the perspectives of parents, college administrators, employers. Provide a possible statement from each perspective on the merit or lack thereof regarding naming a valedictorian. Whose opinions do you think should matter most in determining whether to continue declaring a valedictorian? Why?

Do you think that individual schools should be able to make the decision to name a valedictorian according to their own assessment of their social and educational culture and the specifics of their student body? Or do you think that regardless of any particular differences between schools, all schools should have the same policy of declaring a valedictorian, declaring multiple valedictorians, or not declaring one? Why?