



Day 1 Close

Speaker Script · "First In" — The First Half of the Creed

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SLIDES 11

THE HAMPTON UNIVERSITY MARCHING FORCE · PRE-DRILL CAMP 2026

Presenter notes for every slide, in order. Bracketed cues are stage directions; quoted lines are suggested wording — say them in your own voice.

01 Day 1 Close

SLIDE 1 — TITLE: Day 1 Close, "First In"

Hold the room before anyone starts packing. Captains stand with you.

SAY: "Nobody move yet. We opened this morning on the standard and the why. We're closing on the first half of the creed that runs this program — First In."

CUE: Keep them seated and together. This close only lands if they aren't already halfway out the door.

02 Icebreaker

SLIDE 2 — ICEBREAKER: Kobe Bryant, "Mindset" (4:25)

SET IT UP IN ONE LINE: "Watch what he credits. It isn't talent."

Play it. Do not talk over it.

AFTER: "What did he say the edge actually was?" Take two answers — no more. The clip teaches this, not the discussion.

BRIDGE: "Mindset, chosen every single day. First In is that same decision, made before anybody else shows up."

03 Day 1 in Review

SLIDE 3 — DAY 1 IN REVIEW

Move briskly. This is orientation, not re-teaching. One breath per bullet.

Who we are · Know yourself · How we lead · The line we hold · The craft.

If a presenter from one of those sessions is in the room, gesture to them as you name it.

CLOSE THE SLIDE: "Every one of those points at the same standard. Here it is."

04 The Creed

SLIDE 4 — THE CREED (statement slide)

Slow all the way down. Read the statement — don't paraphrase it.

Then stop. Let the silence sit longer than is comfortable.

SAY: "First In, Last Out. Four words. Tonight we take the first half. The second half closes Day 2 tomorrow."

CUE: This is the hinge of the whole close. Don't rush off it.

05 What "First In" Means

SLIDE 5 — WHAT "FIRST IN" MEANS

Walk the four: first to arrive, first prepared, first to set the tone, first to serve.

LAND HARD ON THE LAST ONE: "First in to get others ready — not first in line for credit. Say that back to me."

CUE: This is where First In stops sounding like punctuality and starts sounding like leadership.

06 First In Has a Clock

SLIDE 6 — FIRST IN HAS A CLOCK

This is the operational heart of the session. Be specific and leave no ambiguity.

SAY: "Leaders: thirty minutes before the downbeat. Not thirty minutes to arrive — thirty minutes to be warm, set, and ready to teach."

"Your section: fifteen minutes. You are responsible for them knowing that and living it."

ASK: "What time does that make it for you tomorrow?" Make them say the actual clock time out loud. Don't move until they do.

07 You Set the Tone

SLIDE 7 — YOU SET THE TONE

SAY: "Whatever walks in with you becomes the section's energy. That's not a motivational line — that's just what happens."

Walk the bullets, then: "They meet the bar you actually set. Never the one you announce."

OPTIONAL: Name one leader in this room who set the tone well today. Specific and by name lands far harder than general praise.

08 First In to Serve

SLIDE 8 — FIRST IN TO SERVE

Tie it straight back to the Servant-Leadership session.

SAY: "You get there first to make other people ready. Set up, teach the fix, warm the section. Not to be seen doing it."

KEY LINE: "You hold the bar by clearing it first. A leader who is First In has no standing to skip his own reps."

09 Why Readiness Is the Standard

SLIDE 9 — WHY READINESS IS THE STANDARD

This is the why behind the clock. Don't skip it — the clock without the why is just a rule.

SAY: "You don't rise to the occasion. You fall to the level of your preparation."

"Time is respect. Being First In respects everybody's time."

BRIDGE: "That's the Standard of Excellence in practice — ready before we're asked to be."

10 Your Commitments Into Day 2

SLIDE 10 — YOUR COMMITMENTS INTO DAY 2

Slow down. This is the ask, and it needs real air.

SAY: "Before you leave this room — one thing you will be early for tomorrow, and one person you will check on."

Have them say it OUT LOUD to the leader beside them. Wait for the room to actually do it. The silence while they turn to each other is fine — let it happen.

CUE: Do not narrate over this. Just wait.

11 First In. Every Time.

SLIDE 11 — CLOSE: "First In. Every Time."

Deliver standing, without notes if you can.

SAY: "Tomorrow morning, before anybody else is on that field, I want to see you. Not because I'm checking — because that's who you are now."

Give the report time and location for Day 2 before the sign-off.

End on the creed line and let the Captains dismiss. Add nothing after it. Let it land.
