Name MODEL

Text Steve Jobs' Stanford University Commencement Address

In his speech to Stanford graduates in 2005, Steve Jobs tells a story "about death," because he wants the graduates to realize something he has learned from having cancer: that death is a necessary part of life, which should influence how people live. When Jobs was first diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, he was told that it was incurable and that he would not live long (107-108). Knowing he might die from cancer caused him to remember something he had thought since he was 17, that he should live every day as if it were his last (lines 95-7).

In lines 120-1, Jobs introduces his message and tells the graduates that he can state his ideas "with a bit more certainty than when death was a useful but purely intellectual concept." In paragraph 21, he states several claims that explain how he now views death. He describes Death as "the single best invention of life" and "life's change agent" because it "clears out the old to make way for the new." Jobs' story about his cancer explains something he has said earlier in paragraph 17: "Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life." Steve Jobs is telling the graduates that they should live their lives in a meaningful way, because, like him, they never know when life might end.

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