

The Line Leader

Speaker Script · "Growing the Next Leader, One Rep at a Time"

PRESENTER Dr. Thomas L. Jones, Jr.

SLIDES 14

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 The Line Leader

SLIDE 1 — TITLE: The Line Leader

AUDIENCE NOTE: framed for the Winds, but the ladder is the same in every section. Say that early so Percussion and Auxiliary don't tune out.

OPEN: "Nobody gets handed a section and told good luck. This is where leaders get built."

02 Icebreaker

SLIDE 2 — ICEBREAKER: Coach Carter, "Our Deepest Fear" (2:29)

SET UP: "Listen to what he says the real fear is."

Play it.

AFTER: "Not that you're weak. That you're powerful. A leader steps into that — and gives everyone on the line permission to do the same."

03 The Premise

SLIDE 3 — THE PREMISE (statement slide)

Read it.

"Every Drum Major, every Captain, every Section Leader started on a single line learning the basics."

Takeaway: "Leaders are built, not born."

04 The Leadership Ladder

SLIDE 4 — THE LEADERSHIP LADDER

Show the whole chain before zooming in: Director, Drum Majors, Captains, Section Leaders, Line Leaders.

READ THE CALLOUT: "Every tier exists to serve the one below it." That's the philosophy of the whole program — don't skip it.

NOTE: this ladder matches the chain of command in Sunday's Communication session.

05 Where the Line Leader Fits

SLIDE 5 — WHERE THE LINE LEADER FITS

"First rung, and the doorway to everything above it."

SAY THE ACCESS POINT CLEARLY: "Open to freshmen — the grade requirement is waived for a freshman's first semester." That's the recruiting line for future leaders; make sure the freshmen in the room hear it.

"You're the pipeline to Section Leader. This is where the next one gets grown."

06 What a Line Leader Is

SLIDE 6 — WHAT A LINE LEADER IS

"The eyes and ears of a single line — 2nd Trumpets, 3rd Clarinets, one part inside the bigger section."

"You provide the desk-level quality control a Section Leader managing dozens can't reach."

LAND: "Small scope. Real responsibility."

07 Two Ways to Lead

SLIDE 7 — TWO WAYS TO LEAD

Transactional versus transformational. Read the two columns with different energy.

Transactional: rewards and consequences, tasks and compliance — "keeps the line running, but keeps it the same."

Transformational: example, vision, belief — develops the individual.

ASK: "Which one were you led by last year? Which one do you want to be?"

08 We Do Not Throw You to the Wolves

SLIDE 8 — WE DO NOT THROW YOU TO THE WOLVES

This is the reassurance slide — a lot of new leaders are quietly nervous.

"Hand somebody a full section with no preparation and you've set them up to fail."

The Leadership Pipeline: leadership as a series of passages, each preparing you for the next.

"Every small win here builds the competence to lead more tomorrow."

09 How We Grow Leaders Here

SLIDE 9 — HOW WE GROW LEADERS HERE

Our Scaffolding Model, five stages: Deconstruct, Supported Integration, Differentiated Repetition, Peer-Led Instruction, Release and Accountability.

CUE: connect it to Teach How to Teach — same logic, applied to growing a leader instead of teaching a skill.

10 Make the Section Leader's Job Easier

SLIDE 10 — MAKE THE SECTION LEADER'S JOB EASIER

This is the practical heart. Four: own the basics, catch it early, cut the stress, report up clean.

THE FRAME THAT MATTERS: "Your first duty is to carry the basics so your Section Leader can actually lead."

"Bring clear, early information. Never surprises."

11 What You Actually Do

SLIDE 11 — WHAT YOU ACTUALLY DO

The daily list. Keep it brisk — it's a job description.

HIGHLIGHT TWO: being the line's musical resource (articulations, fingerings, The Hampton Sound), and mentoring incoming freshmen into the culture.

"Surface issues upward BEFORE they escalate."

12 Who Can Lead the Line

SLIDE 12 — WHO CAN LEAD THE LINE

"The one rule: master your own part first. You cannot lead a line you haven't mastered."

Repeat the freshman waiver — some of them still won't have registered it.

13 Your Path Forward

SLIDE 13 — YOUR PATH FORWARD

"Everything you do now is training for what comes next."

LAND: "Every correction you give, every freshman you mentor, every folder you account for is a rep — building the leader you're becoming. The pipeline runs through you."

14 Master the Basics. Earn the Line.

SLIDE 14 — CLOSE: Master the Basics. Earn the Line.

"Carry the basics so your Section Leader can lead, master your line, and mentor the ones behind you."

End on the sign-off.