



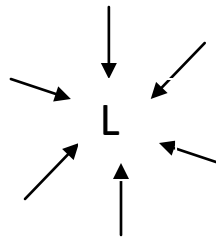
A PROPOSITION FOR A NEW GRADUATION RITUAL

At graduation, many schools ask their students to start the ceremony with their tassels on the front, right side of the cap until the degrees are handed out. Then, after receiving a diploma, the tassel is moved to the left, front side of the cap.

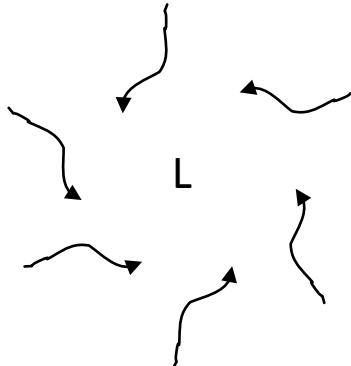
It's an innocuous little tradition, not the sort of thing worth masking yourself for and protesting downtown. But it's also one of those meaningless rites, an infinitely tamed-down version of the rain dance or of the practice of tossing an innocent victim into a volcano. Having said that, wouldn't it be nice if we could modify the so-called tradition into a worthwhile educational experience?

Most high school graduates get a diploma without knowing why the wind blows, literally. This new ritual will fix this problem. To remedy this situation, we will first sew, on top of the graduation cap, where the tassel is attached, the letter *L*. The tassel will symbolize wind direction.

At the core of all tornadoes, hurricanes, tropical storms and depressions is a low pressure zone. This is caused by moist, warm air rising, whose force opposes the weight of air above us per unit area, effectively lowering atmospheric pressure. Outside this center, from the more dense air molecules at the earth's surface, there will be a net force acting towards the center, in other words, wind.



But in the Northern hemisphere, the west-east rotation of the earth will deflect such a wind direction to the right:



So instead of moving tassels to the left and leaving it there, students will continue to rotate them in a counter clockwise-direction. Then an animation can be shown of them securing their graduation caps and flying out of the auditorium, propelling away into the future, knowing that the answers are blowing in the wind.