

Name:

Instructor:

Course:

Date:

### Natalie's 21st Birthday Speech

Good evening everyone!

We are all here tonight to celebrate the 21st birthday of my best friend Natalie, and I wanted to say a few words, share some stories and laughs—which are 50% toast, 50% roast, and 100% love. I remember the day we met just like it was yesterday. I was quite fresh off the boat since I wasn't born here, and you know, Natalie used to trick me by telling me that “nuckles” sounds like “knuckles” for a whole year before I found out the truth—and she tricked me a couple of times after that. Once she even escaped from an Indian restaurant. We were together and didn't pay. Who knows, maybe our photo was displayed outside of the restaurant with “wanted” signs. But the point is that she also taught me how to use a knife and fork for the first time; us Indonesians eat everything with our fingers.

I have no clue how I would survive without Nat, and since you came into my life, you never ceased to provide adventures for me. There is one thing about Natalie that I think we could all say about her: she has a big heart and a desire to help others. Natalie knows that I am afraid of dogs, so (very logically) she trapped me into a corner and puts a dog's paw on me, making me cry—perhaps to help me overcome my fear. I appreciate her desire to give me new experiences I would never dare to try myself!

Since I have known Nat for a while, I also know some of her weaknesses, like constantly being in a love triangle. For example, the one with Terry and Kosta. Although Terry's

qualities eventually took over, it's not the only triangle she's been in!

But anyways, let's not talk about that! She also never knows where to eat. She always wants a little bit of Indian, a little bit of club sandwich from Degani, or pasta from Stuzzi, which drives me insane! I am also mad about another experience I learned from being friends with Nat: that you need to always say these three special words to her especially when we are arguing: "You are right." I have learned that whenever I am right to step aside or else it will lead to damage. Who knows—maybe this tactic has already prevented a couple of accidents!

Nat, I would also like you to know that I appreciate your constant support very much in soccer. It might just mean coming to a game for you, but it means much more for me. You have a gift in understanding me; you are the rare type of friend who brings cheesecake when you are upset and have been fired from a job, which is the best way to support me in a difficult moment. Last but not least, I know you have gone through a lot of difficulties—like anxiety—but I am proud of you because regardless of everything, you haven't given up and continue to overcome your obstacles.

Nat, you are a really strong girl, and you can do this. And no matter what, I am going to always be here for you. You are one of the best people I have met in my life, and I thank you for that. I love you so much. Happy birthday!