

Boggling
Broadcast

You've only got 10 minutes

Ten minutes to show the world. Ten minutes to change your life.

Go.

That, above, is the shortest complete sentence in the English language. The shortest, and possibly the most monumental sentence that exists.

I imagine it crossed Susan Boyle's mind last month as the portly 47-year-old stepped onto the stage of "Britain's Got Talent," the English equivalent of "America's Got Talent," faced with skeptical audiences and a scoffing panel of judges. She sported all the Hollywood taboos: a prominent double chin, pug-like nose, and grandmotherly curls that sat atop her head like a graying hairnet. Her cheesy but confident self-introduction was far from appreciated, met only by knitted brows and dubious stares. Upon a quick evaluation of her appearance, everyone clearly expected this middle-aged woman to bomb the internationally broadcasted show.

And then, she sang.

Her voice rang with a mesmerizing sort of confidence, despite the negative responses she'd received earlier. People stood up, gaped, applauded. There was an exhilarating rush of life that seemed to permeate her performance as the music swept through heartfelt cheers. It contained an astonishing beauty—beauty that nobody had expected.

"When you stood there with that cheeky grin and said, 'I want to be like Elaine Paige,' everyone was laughing at you," judge Piers Morgan said after Boyle finished singing. "No one is laughing now."

But perhaps even more incredible than her voice was the fact that Boyle did not waver once. She did not even hesitate when people mocked her, when she could have easily backed out. She ignored the sneers, the doubts, the disapproval. That woman stuck all the way through with one very bold sentence in mind: Go.

And more than anything else, that's something we can always learn from. In less than a month, whether we're transitioning from high school seniors to college freshmen or underclassmen to upperclassmen, we'll all be graduating to the next level of our lives. With this graduation come new opportunities that may seem daunting or implausible. Some of us will be faced with a new field of possibilities, or even careers that people will tell us to turn away from because we're not good enough, because we'll hit a wall. We might try to follow dreams like Boyle's, only to be bashed by those around us.

But look what happened. Boyle succeeded, because once she stepped onto that stage, she never stopped. She never turned back.

Just as I've learned since joining *El Estoque*, journalism isn't about lounging in front of computers simply waiting for news to come. The newspaper you hold dearly in your hands didn't hatch magically from the depths of our beloved printer. Journalism requires reporters to actively carry out their jobs, because there's no time for stalling. Go out there and get those stories. Go and meet those deadlines.

Go. Stop. Turn back. Go.

The choice is yours. Boyle only had 10 minutes; you may have a lifetime. Whether that lifetime is spent waiting behind the curtains or stirring an audience onstage is entirely up to you.