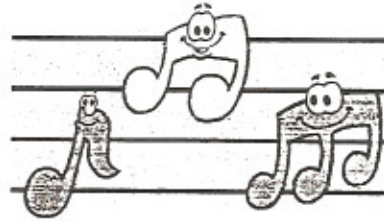


How to Captivate Your Audience with Sound



Keeping an audience interested takes more than an interesting or controversial topic. Vocal variety is one of the keys to audience involvement. One way to think about vocal variety is in the context of a conversation. Think about the way your voice changes while telling a story to a friend. In order to convey the meaning and emotion behind what you are saying, your voice goes up and down, gets louder and softer . . . vocal variety. Following is a description of some of the parts that make up vocal variety, and suggestions for how to improve.

Speaking with Variety

Pay close attention to pitch, inflection, and rate.

- Pitch: how high or low the voice is
- Inflection: variation of the pitch of your voice
- Rate: how fast you talk

Some Suggestions:

Watch out for monotony, a lack of pitch variation

Your voice gives clues to meaning, and helps the audience know how to interpret your speech

- Record your speech and evaluate use of pitch and inflection critically
- Consider practicing with exaggerated variation to gain knowledge of your options

Pace the rate of your delivery in terms of the ideas you are sharing

- Don't go too quickly
- Get feedback



Characteristics of Good Vocal Delivery

Good Speakers:

- Have adequate volume
- Articulate speech sounds clearly and distinctly
- Pronounce words accurately
- Have varied pitch
- Vary speaking rate
- Pause to emphasize ideas

Poor Speakers:

- Speak at an inappropriate volume: too loudly or softly
- Slur speech sounds
- Mispronounce words
- Have a monotonous pitch
- Consistently speak too fast or slow
- Rarely pause or pause too long