

## Practicing Vocal Emphasis

### **Objectives:**

- To practice vocal expression and emphasis.
- To develop effective delivery skills.

### **Explanation:**

Although words convey meanings, the particular meanings of words come from their use or expression. People give meaning to words as they speak them. Using the same words, you can change the meaning by just emphasizing different words.

In the following example, the italicized word connotes a different meaning. Practice reading the sentences aloud.

- John* is taking me to the ball. (John, not Sam)
- John is *taking* me to the ball. (he is paying for everything)
- John is taking *me* to the ball. (can you believe it, I'm so happy)
- John is taking me to the *ball*. (wow, a real ball)

### **Instructions:**

Practice reading the following sentences aloud, emphasizing the italicized words.

### **Sentences for Practice:**

1. *Sally* gave me her gown.
  2. Sally *gave* me her gown.
  3. Sally gave me her *gown*.
  
  4. *I* don't care what you think.
  5. I don't *care* what you think.
  6. I don't care *what* you think.
  7. I don't care what *you* think.
- Next, create a sentence on your own; read it several times, varying vocal emphasis on each reading.