

# Educational: Vocal Variety



## Educational Details

**Time:** 5 minutes

**Meant for session #:** 6

## Content

Your voice and the quality of your voice gives life and impact to your words. Monotone delivery puts your audience to sleep, no matter how interesting your content. On the other hand, an energetic and varied voice will be music to their ears.

### **4 P's of Vocal Variety:**

Power (or volume)

Pitch

Pace

Pauses

### **Power**

Power refers to the volume you project. Be sure that your entire audience can easily hear you without straining. Turning your voice volume up or down adds interest. Use both variations when they match the emotion you want to convey. For example, speaking loud might be used to convey excitement. Speaking soft might convey sadness.

### **Pitch**

Pitch is the frequency of the sound you emit. To some extent, you are born with your voice pitch, However, if your speech contains dialogue for several characters, varying your pitch is an excellent way to distinguish between them.

### **Pace**

Pace is your speaking rate, and varying it throughout the speech adds great interest. There are many effects that a variable pace can generate, but the most basic are:

- Speed up to heighten the emotion
- Slow down when delivering key phrases.
- The most common pace problem is speaking too quickly for the audience to absorb the material. There are two underlying reasons for this:
  - Lack of editing - too much content and too little time.
  - Nervousness

### **Pauses**

Pauses are magical. Pauses can be used for a multitude of purposes.

Short pauses can signal the end of an idea or sentence.

Longer pauses signal the transition between major points or stories.

Pause before and after key points, or after asking a question to enhance audience participation

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## Activity Ideas

### Tone Of Voice

Break the youth into groups of 2 or have each participant go separately. Have them read each of the sentences below (numbered), changing their tone to indicate the first emotion, and then using the second emotion (bullets).

1. Where have you been?

Concerned

Angry

2. He's such a great guy

Sincere

Sarcastic

3. I can't believe it

Exasperated (irritated)

Sad

4. Tell me all about it

Bored

Excited

### Umpire

Ask one student to slide into base, one to act as catcher and another to be the Umpire. The Umpire has to yell "Safe" or "You're Out!" This teaches kids to speak loudly. Other roles to voice act:

Referee: Foul! Half time! Goal!

Cheerleader: Give me an L! Give me an O! Give me a U! Give me a D!

Grandchild: Someone talks, everyone says "WHAT?" Then get them to talk louder as if to deaf grandparents.

### Imitation

Have the youth imitate someone's speech. Someone they don't like or of the opposite sex is great.

### Reading

Have the participants read poems/song lyrics/children's' books aloud with emphasis/emotion.

### Acting

Give the students different roles complete with different voices in a little skit or for their table topics. Ideas:

Little Kid

Monster

Little Old Lady

Wicked Witch

Cool Kid

King/Queen

Fairy

### Role Play

Have the participants role play as two separate roles together. Ideas:

Angry Customer & Cashier

Mother & Teen Home Late

### Emotion Acting

Ask them to act "angry" or "sad" or "joyous" while answering their Table Topic. You can give them a fictitious situation to adopt for the feeling:

Sports Announcer

Console A Friend

Calm A Child

Convince Parents for Field Trip

Other tones and emotions:

Devious

Sleepy

Hyper

Scared

Surprised

Evil