**UMW Speaking Center Presents**



Captivate Your Audience with Sound

Keeping an audience interested takes more than an interesting or controversial topic. Vocal variety is one key to audience involvement. One way to think about vocal variety is in the context of a conversation: while telling a story to a friend your voice changes in order to convey the meaning and emotion behind what you’re saying. Your voice goes up and down, gets louder and softer. This is 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 your voice is
* Inflection: variation of the pitch of your voice
* Rate: how fast you speak

**SOME SUGGESTIONS**

* Watch for monotony, a lack of pitch variation
* Record your speech and evaluate use of pitch and inflection
* Consider practicing with exaggerated variation to explore your options
* Pace the rate of your delivery- don’t go too quickly and make sure to get feedback

**CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD VOCAL DELIVERY**

**Good Speakers:** **Poor Speakers:**

- Have adequate volumes - Speak too loudly or softly

- Articulate speech sounds - Slur speech sounds

- Pronounce words correctly - Mispronounce words

- Have varied pitch - Have monotonous pitch

- Vary speaking rate - Consistently speak too fast or slow

- Pause to emphasize ideas - Rarely pause or pause too long