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 out for monotony - the lack of pitch variation.
- Record your speech and evaluate your 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:**
- Have adequate volumes
- Articulate speech sounds
- Pronounce words correctly
- Have varied pitch
- Vary speaking rate
- Pause to emphasize ideas

**Poor Speakers:**
- Speak too loudly or softly
- Slur speech sounds
- Mispronounce words
- Have monotonous pitch
- Consistently speak too fast or slow
- Rarely pause or pause too long