

## Dimension: Volume

**Description:** The loudness or softness with which you speak

### Partial List of Uses

Loud:

- Emphasis
- Alarm
- Anger
- Joy
- Intensity

Soft:

- Secret
- Calmness
- Apprehensiveness
- Tenderness
- Emphasis
- Anger

### Keys to Use

- Ease into it
- Don't make it constant. Give your audience a rest
- This can be for one word or an entire phrase

## Dimension: Pitch

**Description:** The sound frequency at which one speaks

Pitch has two scales: a personal one (your pitch can vary based on your own range) and an absolute one (your voice might be higher or lower than mine)

### Partial List of Uses

- Emphasis
- Don't sound boring
- Get into character:
  - Male vs. female
  - Child vs. adult
  - Character differentiation

### Keys to Use

- Stay within your range (you can lose power if you try to talk too high or too low for your range)
- Make sure that your voice doesn't go down at the end of every sentence
- Be sure that you don't squeak



# The Nine Dimensions of Vocal Variety

## Dimension: Pace

**Description:** The speed at which you speak

### Partial List of Uses

Swift:

- Speed
- Urgency
- Danger

Slow:

- Emphasis
- Tension
- Finality
- Fear
- Transition
- Slowness of Action

### Keys to Use

- Don't do it to cram more words in
- The faster you talk, the harder you are to understand
- The faster you are, the less expressive you can be

## Dimension: Pause

**Description:** A period where there is no sound whatsoever

### Partial List of Uses

- Emphasis
- Create suspense
- Set up a punch line
- After a punch line
- Give the audience a chance to think
- Give the audience a chance to laugh
- To indicate transition

### Keys to Use

- Make it longer than you can stand it
- Get comfortable with the long pause



# The Nine Dimensions of Vocal Variety

## **Dimension: Emotion**

**Description:** The whole spectrum of human emotions

### **Partial List of Uses**

- Convey the full and true meaning of your words
  - Denotative
  - Connotative
- If you want to move people, you must touch their emotions
  - As part of that aim, you must show some yourself

### **Keys to Use**

- This is not wailing and gnashing of teeth
- It is not specifically crying, although it may be appropriate at times
- It is allowing your emotions to show through
- Let your audience feel your feelings

## **Dimension: Energy**

**Description:** The vigor or excitement with which you speak

### **Partial List of Uses**

- Enthusiasm
- Vigor or excitement
- Keep the audience interested (and awake)

### **Keys to Use**

- Don't overdo it
- A certain minimum energy throughout the speech is good
- A high level of energy throughout your speech runs the risk of exhausting your audience

## Dimension: Intensity

**Description:** Intensity is easy to detect, but it can be difficult to define

- Tension, a high level of feeling
- Fire in the eyes
- Forcefulness of the voice
- The opposite of relaxed

### Partial List of Uses

- Emphasis
- Fear
- Anger
- Urgency

### Keys to Use

- Intensity is the most dangerous of the dimensions. Your audience can burn out if it is over used.
- Doesn't need high volume to be effective
- This could also be from straining the voice to be heard
- Constant intensity can turn your audience off

## Dimension: Character Voices

**Description:** When you are being someone other than yourself

### Partial List of Uses

- Comedy
- Parody
- Character definition
- Character differentiation
- Storytelling

### Keys to Use

- Make it realistic, but big
- When we assume the body position of the character that we are wanting to represent, our voice characterization is better



# The Nine Dimensions of Vocal Variety

## **Dimension: Tonal Quality**

**Description:** The richness of your voice

### **Partial List of Uses**

- For dramatic effect
- As an emcee or announcer

### **Keys to Use**

- Change the position of the focal point of your voice
- If it is at the tip of the tongue, the voice is higher and tinnier
- If it is at the bottom of the throat, the voice is lower and fuller
- Widening the throat will add richness to the sound

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