

Speech Technique Suggestions for the Student

Learning Your Selection

1. Practice your selection every day at home for your parents. Do your very best each time.

2. Stand correctly. Stand up tall, yet relaxed. Look at your entire audience. Say the title and author. Then wait for three seconds before you begin the selection. At the end of the selection, hold your last motion or feeling for three seconds. Then come back to your beginning position for three seconds as you smile at your audience. Never rush back to your seat on the last word.

3. Say your selection with expression (feeling). Some of the main feelings are listed below:

- Gladness • Surprise
- Sadness • Worry
- Anger • Wonder
- Fear • Pride

Use all of your facial muscles to show these feelings. Your voice should also project these feelings. Figure out the feelings you should have with your selection. There are many other types of feelings than the ones listed, so use your imagination. Use all of the feelings your selection calls for each time you say it. This will help you to learn quickly and really enjoy saying your selection. Practice in front of a mirror to see whether you are really showing the feeling that is needed.

4. The use of gestures will enhance your presentation if they are natural for your selection. Any gestures you use should add to your selection, making it more interesting, more believable, and more enjoyable for you and for your audience. Learn a few natural gestures right away, and practice saying your selection with them every time.

5. Speak slowly and clearly. Stop after each thought. Remember to speak with a tall mouth (you should be able to put two fingers between your lips when you talk). This will help you say your words clearly and loudly. Say every sound (beginning, middle, and ending) of every word in your selection. A tape recorder is a tremendous help in learning and practicing your selection. You should train yourself to project your voice for an audience. Microphones will not be used in the meet.