

Monotony bores. This speech exercises your ability to use your voice dynamically by practicing **contrast**. Select a scripted dialog and read it using the techniques of vocal delivery discussed in class and in Ch. 11 (pgs. 249-253):

Volume Dynamics: changes in loudness

Articulation: clarity of each syllable

Pronunciation: saying words familiarly

Intonation: changes in pitch

Rate: changes in speed

Expressive pauses: communicative silences

Apply these concepts to your vocal delivery to *break your monotony* and keep your audience engaged.

### Directions

1. **Select a scripted dialog** that you think the audience will enjoy (from TV, film, theater, or even better, a script that you write). You will read both characters, altering your voice to make each character sound different from the other. **Select a 60 second dialog so that you read it slowly and expressively for 60-90 seconds.** It can be funny, serious, sad, et cetera, but make it *interesting!* Make sure it is appropriate and will not cause offense.
2. **Copy and paste your dialog** into a text document and edit it in these ways:
  - a. Size 14 font or bigger
  - b. Add a / for each **pause**, a // for large pauses, and /// for very long pauses
  - c. **Highlight words to emphasize.** You must have *at least one* word emphasized between each /
  - d. Add additional marks to **indicate changes in volume, rate, and intonation.** You can use arrows (↗↘↙↚), words (e.g. faster, louder), and anything that helps you read dynamically.
3. **Practice your delivery** by adding maximal expression, eliminating your monotony. You are graded on your **variation** (e.g. *change in volume, change in tone, change in speed*).
4. **Perform your dialog** in class in this format:
  - a. Briefly tell us the **source** of the dialog and the **context** of the scene so that we can understand it.
  - b. Perform the dialog, applying the vocal techniques.

**Example of Unmarked Dialog:** (notice how the meaning of each line changes depending on how you say it)

A: hey

B: hey what

A: hey you watchout

B: wow

A: yeah you're welcome

B: I love you sometimes

A: whoa wait what do you mean I love you? Like, I love you sometimes? I love you sometimes? I love you sometimes?

B: I love you sometimes

A: [sigh]

**Example of Marked Dialog between a tired teacher [A] and brilliant student [B]:**

A: [fast] ~StyleStyleStyleStyleMLUGH~ // Style is nuh~-thing~. Only the right answer counts.

B: [slowing] No no / no // nooo ///

[vry slw] Style~ /// is the answer~ /// to everything~ ///

[spd up] A fresh way / to approach a dull / or dangerous thing //

[spd up mre] To do a dull thing / with style? / is preferable to doing a dangerous thing / without it~ //

[vry slw] To do a dangerous thing / with style? / is what I call /// art~ // (- C. Bukowski.)