

## Vocal delivery (UW-La Crosse Public Speaking Center)

Vocal delivery includes everything that influences the way your voice works in your speech.

### Elements of vocal delivery

- **Pronunciation:** how a word is spoken based on regional rules and standards
  - Prior to speaking, make sure that you know the appropriate way to pronounce a word
  - Include phonetic spelling on your speaking notes and/or cards
- **Articulation:** physical process of shaping words
  - Avoid slurring words while speaking
- **Volume** – loudness or softness of your voice
  - Appropriate volume for the size and dimensions of the speaking situation
  - If available, use a microphone in big rooms to project your voice
- **Pitch:** high or low voices
  - Influences projection (how far your voice will carry)
- **Rhythm:** cadence or pattern of voice
- **Rate:** speed of speaking (too fast or too slow)
  - Nervous speakers tend to speak faster
  - Practice speaking a little slower than you think you should if you are a fast talker
- **Tone:** variability or warmth in your voice
  - Varying your voice helps keep your audience engaged
- **Vocalized pauses:** filler words used by speakers
  - Some vocalized pauses are OK
  - Aim to minimize them in your speech

### Tips for best delivery

- There is no perfect or ideal delivery
- Aim for your best delivery for your voice
- Focus on good delivery while practicing your speech
- Identify areas for improvement by recording practice presentation or watching video recordings of your speeches

*Handout adapted from:* Husiman, D., Berry, I., Peterson, J., Van Oss, J. (Eds.) (2019). *Communicating Effectively*. Southlake, TX. Fountainhead Press.

