

Dynamic Readings

Goal of Exercise: To help students become more engaging, persuasive speakers.

Description: Have one student at a time read aloud in front of the class. Reading materials vary and you can use anything. Including, but not limited to:

Poetry

Chapter from the Bible

News Articles or Debate Evidence

Sections from a Short Story or Novel

Readings should not exceed 2-3 minutes. During this time students must attempt to demonstrate vocal variances in speed, tone, and volume. That is, in their short reading, they must:

SPEED: Have sentences/parts that are slow and dramatic with pauses, but also sentences/parts that are fast and move quickly.

TONE: Display at least two opposite emotions during the reading. Sad to happy. Anger/passionate to calm/content. Humor to serious. Etc.

VOLUME: Have sentences/parts that are read quietly, and sentences/parts that are read loudly.

Teacher's Note: This exercise is useful in class, but encourage students to keep doing this exercise at home by reading their 1ACs or debate evidence.

The exercise is especially useful for students who stick with one vocal style perpetually (i.e. students who speak in monotone, or speak with constant pacing). Monotonous speeches are easy to tune out. Dynamic speakers are ones who vary their style. Like music, the sound and tempo of sentences should be interesting. This will ensure that the audience stays focused and listens to every word.



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