

# Finding Your Voice

# Warm Ups

- 1. In your notes, describe your voice (is it too high, low, shrill, nasal, etc).
- 2. List three people whose voices you admire and why.

# Terms

- **Timbre** – the quality that makes each sound different. It's what makes your voice sound different from someone else's.
- **Pitch** – how high or low a sound is.
- **Inflection** – the rising and falling of pitch. Inflection adds meaning, color, and rhythm to spoken words.
- **Flexibility** – the process of varying inflections of the voice.
- **Poise** – the effective control of all voice elements and body movements.

# Terms

- **Articulation** – The shaping and molding of sounds into syllables, using articulators (lips, tongue, teeth, hard palate, and soft palate).
- **Pronunciation** – The way words are said.
- **Volume** – How loudly or softly a person speaks.
- **Tempo** – The speed at which a person speaks.
- **Projection** – The placement and delivery of voice elements used effectively when communicating to an audience.

# Dialect and Accent

- Dialect – A particular form of a language that is unique to a specific region or social group.
  - Example: “y’all vs. you guys” “mad vs. crazy”
- Accent – The manner in which people speak and the way words are pronounced in different parts of the world.
  - Example: English accent, Southern accent, or New Jersey accent

# Activities

- 1. Using different inflections, say these words: Yes, no, it's okay, finally, sure, great.
- 2. Repeat this question – “What did you do?” – in different ways. Place emphasis on the different words in the question to make each way effective.

- 3. Using gibberish and varying the inflection in your voice, explain the following:
  - How to get somewhere
  - What someone looked like
  - How to solve a math problem
  - How to play a sport
  - Where you are from
  - Who's in your family
  - Your favorite food
  - What's in an imaginary box
  - An idea of your own

- 4. Read the following poem, “A Word” by the famous American poet, Emily Dickinson, three different ways:

- A word is dead  
When it is said,  
Some say.

I say it just  
Begins to live  
That day.



- 5. Practice saying the following short sentences. Concentrate on changing the meaning when you repeat them, changing the inflection and/or emphasis of different words.
  - Excuse me
  - You haven't seen anything yet
  - Oh, what a beautiful morning
  - You can't do that
  - Forget about it
  - What did you say
  - Are you talking to me
  - Its so good to see you
  - Whatever