

Advice - Exercises for Radio Presentation

Breath. Don't forget to BREATHE! It's alright if listeners hear you breathe. This is a completely natural occurrence and although your breathing may sound very loud in your headphones, I guarantee that your listeners will find it much stranger if they DON'T hear you breathe.

Projection. This goes hand in hand with breathing. Obviously on the radio, you don't have to shout to be heard. But you do have to have ENERGY behind your voice. If you're not breathing, you can't possibly project and your voice is going to sound weak. Many people don't know this, but talking quietly actually takes as much or more breath, than speaking normally.

Pausing and Pacing. The key is variation. Vary your pacing. You may be only be reading a news report, but it's still a performance. You are responsible for bringing the images in the script/report into people's minds.

Diction. Don't over do it, but make sure you can be understood. Your listeners need to be able to hear every 'T' and every 'P' in your copy. You don't necessarily have to read slowly or over-annunciate to achieve this, but you do need to be sure that each word is understood. Radio listeners only have one chance to get what you're saying and if your words are unclear, slurred together, etc.; they are going to miss what you are saying.

Tone. Match the tone of what you're talking about. Your job is to give context to your script/report. If your piece is funny, let yourself laugh. If it's sad, let yourself express some emotion - speak more slowly, lower your tone, etc. Make people FEEL what you're talking about.

Personality - Let it shine through. Don't be afraid to let your personality come through in your in your voice. Remember that presenting is a performance so it's important to keep your audience entertained.

Exercise

In groups of about 3/4 participants choose roles to play. Advise them to mark their own lines and rehearse the scene together (final piece can be recorded). The exercise works best if people are standing up, in a circle. The idea is that they can emphasize different words and experiment with different tones and pace, thus exploring the range of their own voices.

Mark your own lines and rehearse one of the following scenes in your groups.

Script 1

- I hear he's cheating on her again
- Well it wouldn't be the first time
- Last time it was with her sister
- Perhaps this time it's her mother
- I don't know how he does it
- Well he is very good looking
- You would think a man of his age would know better
- I wouldn't like to be in his shoes when his wife finds out
- I don't know why she puts up with it
- Perhaps she doesn't know
- Should we tell her?
- Well of course not... you know me I don't like to gossip

Script 2

- You should trust us
- We have your best interest at heart
- We could help you
- Of course you don't have to listen to us
- You could ignore our advice
- Follow your own instincts
- Are you listening?
- Don't you trust us?
- Are you going to ignore what we are saying?
- Well do what you want
- See what happens
- We don't care