

Grade 7 & 8: Choral Speaking Techniques

What is Choral Speaking?

Choral speaking requires a group of performers to orally interpret, memorize and perform either poetry or prose using the spoken, not singing voice.

Types of Choral Speaking

Refrain: One person reads the narrative and the rest of the group joins in the refrain

Unison: The whole group reads the material together

Antiphonal: The class is divided into two or more groups with each group being responsible for a certain part

Cumulative: This is a method where groups of voices or individual voices are added to or subtracted depending on the intended meaning

Solo lines: Individuals read specific lines in appropriate places throughout the group activity

Line around: More solo work where each line is taken by a different person in the group

Making the performance interesting

Alternate: slow and fast lines, stanzas or paragraphs, loud and soft lines, low & high voices

Emphasis: Key words and phrases by reciting them in a louder or softer voice

Pause: pause for a specified number of silent 'beats', before continuing the next line or phrase

Unity: When groups of voices speak a line together, they must remain unified at all times (count or tap feet).

Articulation: Pay particular attention to articulation, especially the letter 't' and the ends of words

Sound effects: Use body percussion, clap, click or make appropriate sound effects at the end of lines, stanzas or paragraphs. Incorporate music when appropriate

Bodily movement

Use gesture, choreography or other movement to enhance communication or better express meaning

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