

City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Academic Works

Open Educational Resources

Kingsborough Community College

2021

SPE-29 - Voice & Articulation (Intro assignment)

Laura Spinu

CUNY Kingsborough Community College

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

More information about this work at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/kb_oers/7

Discover additional works at: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu>

This work is made publicly available by the City University of New York (CUNY).

Contact: AcademicWorks@cuny.edu

SPE 29 - Voice & Articulation (intro assignment)

What makes a voice and speaking style pleasant or unpleasant?

For this assignment, you are going to contribute two entries to Module 1 of our course database, one in the "Good voices" folder and the other in the "Bad voices" folder. For each entry, you will be submitting a document containing the information required below. Make sure to use your course ID (the 4-character letter-number combination you agreed to use in order to make your entry anonymous yet recognizable by me for the purpose of grading) as the name of the file you will be submitting. We are going to use this database for a subsequent assignment asking you to identify the most desirable qualities and most common flaws of speaking voices, and synthesize the overall findings.

The two documents should include the links to two videos (one each), illustrating

- a) what you consider a "perfect" professional voice and speaking style (or as close to perfect as possible), and the other of which illustrates the opposite, that is,
- b) a very inappropriate voice and speaking style in the context of a job interview. If it makes it easier to focus, imagine that the interview is for a position as a receptionist at a reputable institution such as a clinic in Manhattan.

Imagine that both these people have identical resumes, and they only differ in the way they speak. It is the way they are speaking, but not WHAT they are speaking about, that will determine who gets the job and who doesn't. Since what they are talking about is not important, you should not choose speakers that use excessive cursing or other types of profanity as your (b) example.

For each video, make sure you provide specific times that can support your points (list the exact times in the video where a certain linguistic behavior can be observed, e.g. 2 min 36 sec to 2 min 39 sec). For each voice, please list 3 characteristics that make it likely or unlikely to get the job. Use specific examples to strengthen your point. Ideally, one of your choices will have to do with the quality of the voice and the other two with the quality of the articulation.

STRUCTURE OF YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

(a) The voice that gets hired.

- Provide the **link** to the video.
- Provide information about the **10-second portion** you consider most representative of your choice (list the specific times in the video, e.g. 2 min 36 sec to 2 min 46 sec).
- Provide **3 different characteristics** of this voice and/or speaking style that make it likely to get hired. Use **specific examples and provide the exact times** for each. If it is impossible to provide a specific example (for instance, in the case where you are have chosen a more global aspect of the voice, such as excessive nasality), you must explain why that is so. Your answers should be **brief**, about 2-3 sentences each, and **numbered**.

(b) The voice that does not get hired.

- Provide the **link** to the video.
- Provide information about the **10-second portion** you consider most representative of your choice (list the specific times in the video, e.g. 2 min 36 sec to 2 min 46 sec).
- Provide **3 different characteristics** of this voice and/or speaking style that make it unlikely to get hired. Use **specific examples and provide the exact times** for each. If it is impossible to provide a specific example (for instance, in the case where you are have chosen a more global aspect of the voice), you must explain why that is so.
- Your answers should be **concise**, about 2-3 sentences each, and **numbered**.

You may choose to list these characteristics in a table, side by side, especially if they are contrastive. For example, voice (a) uses a lively pitch, ranging from high to low and making it sound animated, whereas voice (b) uses a flat, unvaried pitch that makes it sound boring and robotic.

Word limit: minimum 250 - maximum 500 words for each voice (**500-1000 words total**).