1. Why are YOU here today?
   - What would you like to learn more about or have help with?

2. The Value of Energetic Voice & Diction:
   - It stops boring your audience.
   - It leads to more effective communication.
   - It will help students to learn and understand the nuances of your communication.
   - It will help you persuade others.
   - It will give you additional outlets for communication (e.g. radio, TV, webinars, etc.) that can help you promote your program!

3. What elements does Voice and Diction include?
   - Pitch
   - Tone
   - Volume
   - Rate
   - Breath Control
   - Articulation
   - Proper Pronunciation
   - Uses of Pauses

4. Some examples of negative voice images:
   - Too nasal
   - Squeaking – uses upper/high registers continually
   - Voice is monotonous. Little variation of pitch or pace.
   - Too loud.
   - Lateral lisps: Tom Brokaw; Barbara Walters (L’s become W’s)
   - Constant rising inflection at the ends of sentences. (Observation: millennials and 30-40 somethings)
   - Mispronunciation: Would of; Pacific instead of specific; especially with double consonants
   - ShriII, hard piercing tones like the sound of a concrete cutter! S’s and Pop P’s with microphones
   - Sing-songy (Priests at church giving sermons); habitual pitch ranges regardless of subject matter
   - Hesitance in speech. Words are held back and come timidly.
• Strong accents or stammering/stuttering may need the help of a professional voice coach or speech therapist.
• Too breathy or holds breath so it sounds tight or strangled

5. What personality traits do you conjure up about a speaker because of how their voice sounds to you?

• Shy
• Poor self-esteem
• Lazy
• Careless
• Arrogant (too loud for too long)
• Over-anxious or nervy (motor-mouth)
• Boring
• Lacking intelligence
• A complainer or whiner (Elmer Fudd)
• Easily influenced
• Incapable of leadership
• Indecisive
• Immature (Little Girl Syndrome)
• Etc.

6. Some examples of positive voice images:

• Sounds natural, relaxed, and free
• Varied and flexible pitch, pace, tone, volume, breath control that shifts according to what you are communicating. Punches certain words for emphasis. EXAMPLE: Say this sentence: “Put the book down and come over here.” How many ways can it be said and have different meanings?
• Average rate of speech is 150 words per minute. Sometimes some people can get gusts up 150 miles per hour!
• Good news for Western MA natives. We speak 70% general American speech! Cf. Boston accents who “pahk theya cah in Hahvad Yahd!”

7. Let’s practice!

• Breathing from diaphragm
• Read a passage. Critique. Talk with your eyes and smile.

8. Handouts: FAQ’s The Voice Academy  www.uiowa.edu/~shcvoice