Speech Delivery

*What is delivery?*

Delivery deals with how you present the information in your speech. It includes each of the following elements:

**Volume** – Can your audience hear you? Remember to talk to the person in the back of the room.

**Clarity**­ – Can your audience understand you? Are you speaking clearly and enunciating? If you are someone who slurs your words or mumbles, concentrate on speaking clearly.

**Tempo and Pauses** – Is there a natural rhythm to your speech? Pauses should seem natural and not be distracting. Don’t speak too rapidly or too slowly.

**Eye Contact** – Do you make eye contact with the entire room? Don’t forget about the audience members sitting to either side of you and in the back corners. Don’t know how long to maintain eye contact? If you feel uncomfortable, they probably do too. Move on to the next audience member.

**Posture** – Do you appear confident? Slouching, while possibly just a bad habit, sends of message of insecurity. Be sure to stand up straight.

**Tone** – What emotions does your voice present? Anger? Boredom? Enthusiasm? You want to present a tone of interest in your topic. How can your audience care about what you’re saying if you don’t?

**Pronunciation** – Do you pronounce words according to standard English? If you’re unsure, ask someone.

**Inflection** – Do you use vocal intonation to get your point across? Inflection deals with what words you choose to emphasize.

*What does delivery have to do with the senior boards speech?*

Although your audience is not looking for you to be the next Martin Luther King, Jr., they will expect that your delivery be professional. A well-written senior boards speech that is poorly delivered does not meet its goal: to inform its audience of your project.



Giving a speech? Throw out that gum! Gum chewing is not only distracting and unprofessional, but it also interferes with clarity and enunciation.

## Something to Think About

Think about the role delivery plays in the act of a stand-up comedian.

Can two different people tell the same jokes differently and still be funny?

**Practice**



Eye contact – In a small group, give a brief speech about what you did last weekend. Make sure to make eye contact with *each* person for a few seconds.

Inflection – Read each sentence out loud, emphasizing the *underlined* word. How does the meaning change?

*He* gave the ring to her?

He *gave* the ring to her?

He gave the *ring* to her?

He gave the ring to *her*?

 YOUR TURN

Create a persuasive speech. Your goal is to convince your audience to agree with your point of view. You can try to convince your audience that the driving age should be changed or that everyone should ski. Use delivery to help convince your audience.