

How to Maximize Learning through Proper Voice Inflections

Even a knowledgeable instructor with phenomenal martial arts skills still has to be able to communicate with students in a manner that doesn't bore or intimidate them. Your charisma and personality is how you connect with your students and your voice plays a big part in this connection. Using your voice effectively on the mat is a powerful tool that can increase communication to your students and maximize their learning experience.

The goal of the instructor on the mat is to provide martial arts instruction that is both motivational and



inspirational. Teaching with a monotone, boring voice on the mat is counterproductive to reaching these goals. By the same token, an instructor who thinks they communicate better if they're screaming often intimidates a student. It gets back to teaching with personality, charisma, and using your voice effectively.

There are many strategies you can put into effect in the classroom that involve using your voice to maximize learning. For this G.O.L.D. team lesson we will start by rehearsing how to teach using an inspirational tone, speed, and animation in our voice.

Inspiring Students with Your Voice

As a great martial arts instructor, you will want to communicate and inspire your class to try their best. One of the ways to do this is to use your voice to give the student encouragement as well as motivation while

drills are taking place. When you are encouraging or praising students, you will want to make sure that you put emotion into your voice. As a student, if you heard your instructor say, "Good job." in a monotone fashion, would you believe that you were doing a good job? Or, would you wonder if your instructor were sincere or just saying that? To help make sure that our students feel that our praise is sincere, we should speak with a positive, expressive, and enthusiastic tone in our voices.

Matching Voice Speed with Technique Speed

To help students get the most out of instruction and directions, you will want to get in the habit of matching the speed of your voice to the speed of the techniques you are teaching. For instance, if you were to ask the class to perform slow motion kicks, you would take extra time to slow down your directions. You may even emphasize your words by taking several extra seconds to say them. This helps get the point across about how the drill is to be done.

By the same token, if you are asking for speed, you wouldn't want to say in a slow, monotone fashion, "Let's do this as quiiicckkly as possible." But you may say the word "quickly" or all the directions at a faster speed than usual.

Animating Your Voice

When teaching young children, it is often a good rule to slow down your words and accentuate certain syllables for a dramatic effect. Try animating your words especially when teaching the Words of the Week, or when telling a story. To add additional zest into your voice animation, use your body to help get the point across. For example, imagine that you are describing how to do a drill that will require the students to sometimes run fast and sometimes move in slow motion. When you describe the drill, you would

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talk about the fast part quickly, increase the strength in your voice, and show them how to move quickly with your body; when you describe the slow portion you would slow down your sentences, quiet down your voice, and move in slow motion. Really play it up to help keep interest and get the key points across to the younger students.

G.O.L.D. Team Lesson and Drills

Review and discuss the above leadership team information with your G.O.L.D. team.

Summary

Review the lesson and each team member's scores. Make additional key points that you feel are important.