

Changing hats

Reflections on an alternative approach to preparing students for presentations

Student presentations

- ▶ Are part of core communication modules in business
- ▶ Are used as assessments in other business courses
- ▶ Involve three elements
 - Physical
 - Voice: pitch, pace, pause, intonation, articulation
 - Gesture and expression
 - Intellectual
 - Content, audience analysis
 - Emotional
 - Confidence, engagement, passion!

BBSD642: Oral Communication

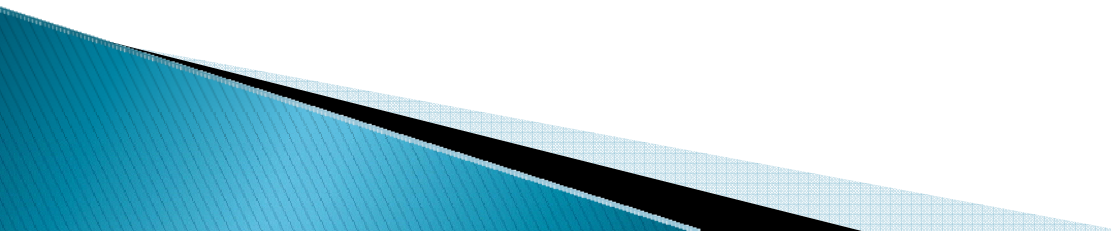
- ▶ Second year business degree class
- ▶ 16 – 20 students
- ▶ Domestic students
 - confidence
- ▶ International students
 - speaking skills
 - confidence

Rhythm

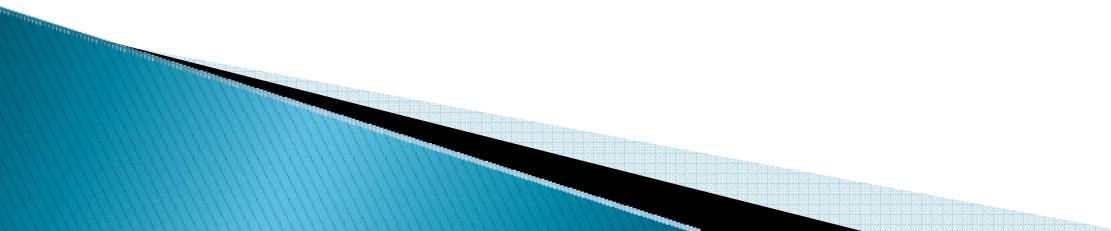
- ▶ English is a stress-based language
- ▶ We learn through nursery rhymes and rhythm
- ▶ Good speakers use rhythm and intonation
 - Churchill
 - Martin Luther King
 - David Lange
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u5A3tUkQeW0>

The ability to use rhythm is the basis of effective speech delivery

Aim and rationale

- ▶ Building confidence and speech skills in an unthreatening and fun manner.
 - ▶ Encouraging students to find their own voice within the parameters of 'good' delivery style by using texts that are familiar, easy to understand,
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Techniques

- ▶ Breathing and voice exercises (bubbles)
 - ▶ Clapping games
 - ▶ Nursery rhymes
 - ▶ Jabberwocky
 - ▶ Children's stories
 - ▶ Poetry
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Confidence and skills

- ▶ Clapping games
 - No language
 - Developing rhythm
 - Fun
- ▶ Nursery rhymes
 - Working in groups
 - Listening skills
 - Unthreatening
 - Body language –gestures and facial expression
 - Simple language

Confidence and skills

Jabberwocky

<http://www.jabberwocky.com/carroll/jabber/jabberwocky.html>

- Vocabulary
- Onomatopoeia
- Listening skills
- Articulation, pitch, pace and volume
- Communicating with an audience

Confidence and skills

▶ Children's stories

- Lynley Dodd
- Dr Seuss

▶ Adult poetry

- e e cummings –pace and pause
 - Dylan Thomas –rhythm and language
 - Robert Frost –language and narrative
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- Simple, vivid language
 - Clear imagery
 - Articulation and fluency
 - Natural rhythms and intonation

Results

- ▶ Increased class cohesion
- ▶ Improved listening skills
- ▶ Increased confidence – 'give it a go'
- ▶ anecdotal improvement in assessment grades

But:

- ▶ Students must buy in
 - ▶ Students still need formal practice
 - ▶ International students value extra speech tutorials
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The bigger picture

- ▶ Simple changes:
 - Encourage learning
 - Suit a diverse classroom
 - Engage tutor and students
 - Are a natural part of learning