

Speech and Debate: Voice Power Practice

An excerpt of a commencement address by Steve Jobs

Source: <http://news.stanford.edu/news/2005/june15/jobs-061505.html>

For the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: "If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?" And whenever the answer has been "No" for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something.

Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything — all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that you are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart.

Work with a partner to indicate the following things. Then each person will present the speech to their partner trying to use their voice correctly.

- Short pauses (I), longer pauses (II), and very long pauses (III)
- Intonation ↑ ↓
- Underline stressed words or phrases
- **Highlight** louder parts or quieter parts in different colours