

feel most comfortable and one that is appropriate to the rest of the debate and the subject matter under discussion. Your delivery might not work the first time, and it might not work every time, but you will learn and develop more and more quickly as a speaker by being true to what feels right to you than by chasing after illusory “correct” styles.

EXERCISES

- A. Organize a debate on the motion This House Believes Fashion Matters. Appoint as many adjudicators as you like but they should focus entirely on style and offer feedback.
 - B. Record yourself speaking—or watch yourself in a mirror (this is best done in private). What mannerisms do you find distracting in your own performance?
 - C. In pairs, try different speaking speeds for reading out different types of material—use anything from poetry to the phonebook. Discuss what effect different speeds have on how engaged the listener feels with the material.
 - D. Practice steadying your breathing. Breathe in for the count of four seconds, and out for the count of four seconds. Get used to using your full breathing capacity and what projection feels like.
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CHAPTER CHECKLIST

- Manner—the style of delivery—is an important component of any speech.
 - At the most basic level, a speech must be audible and easy to follow.
 - Eye contact, pace, intonation, volume, and speed can have an impact on how persuasive your speech is.
 - The style of delivery needs to be appropriate to the subject matter and setting.
 - Debaters must convince the audience that they believe in the arguments they are presenting—even if they don’t.
 - Don’t copy someone else’s style.
 - Ultimately, the correct style is one with which the speaker feels comfortable.
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