Podium Points
For Public Speaking and Performance

VERBAL: PED-TV

Pace: How quickly or slowly a person speaks. Good pace is easy to understand by all members of the audience.

Emphasis: The stress placed upon certain words when speaking. Good emphasis stresses words that help make a point.

Diction: Degree of clarity and distinctness of pronunciation when speaking. Good diction includes pronouncing consonants at the beginning and ends of words. It also means the word choice of a speaker or writer, e.g. using “four score and seven years ago” rather than “87.”

Tone: The emotion conveyed by the sound of the speaker’s voice. Good tone is appropriate to the content and to the occasion.

Volume: How loudly or softly a person speaks. Good volume can be heard by all members of the audience.

PHYSICAL: P-PEG

Presence: The speaker’s energy and connection with the audience. Does his or her presence reflect confidence? Is the speaker welcoming the audience with what he or she has to say?

Posture: How the speaker holds his or her body. It is most effective for the speaker to stand up tall, with knees relaxed and shoulders down.

Eye Contact: When a person looks directly at the audience. Good eye contact is made often, with many members of the audience.

Gestures: When a person uses motions or body movements in a speech. Good gestures are rehearsed, intentional and help emphasize a point.