

1 Connect with your audience.

- ✓ Most important is to make eye contact.
- ✓ Don't bury your face in your work and simply read it.
- ✓ Look at your audience as often as possible to make contact.
- ✓ Move from face to face, include everyone.
- ✓ Make them feel like you are talking directly to them.

2 Vary your voice.

- ✓ Reading in a monotone is steady, but not very interesting.
- ✓ Voices that go up & down, become louder & softer, go faster & slower: *those* are interesting.
- ✓ Use your voice to mimic the life in what you are reading:
 - ▶ If what you are reading is action, your voice should have the same pace.
 - ▶ If it's thoughtful, slow down.
 - ▶ If it's tense, give appropriate pauses. Drag out key words or phrases.
 - ▶ If it's happy, speak at a higher range and usually faster.
 - ▶ If it's sad, speak at the same speed as the pain and with the loudness/softness that mirrors that pain.
 - ▶ If it's descriptive, be the same as the scene: light or somber.

3 Use gestures.

- ✓ Use your hands to complement emphasis.
- ✓ Use your fingers to tick off points on a list.
- ✓ As you read, do actions that mimic *what* you are reading. For example,
 - ▶ Spread your arms for something big or expansive.
 - ▶ Use your fingers for something small, tiny, insignificant, or trivial.
 - ▶ Do what the character is doing:
 - Pointing at something.
 - Shading their eyes.
 - Looking around.
 - Scratching their head.
- ✓ Mirror the emotions of your character. For example,
 - ▶ Shrug, grimace, or furrow your brow.
 - ▶ Smile, grin, chuckle, or laugh.
 - ▶ Show sadness or gloominess.
 - ▶ Show happiness or euphoria.
 - ▶ Show sudden insight or knowledge.

4 Show emotion.

✓ Finally, the best way to connect with your audience is to show your feeling, your emotion.

✓ When you are reading, let your face, gestures, and voice:

- ▶ Reflect the vitality and emotions of your writing.
- ▶ Invoke the physical, sensual aspects of your scenes.
- ▶ Bring your characters to life—when the lines are about them, be them.
- ▶ Manifest the human feelings and thoughts embedded in and driving your writing.

✓ When not reading, have your face exude:

- ▶ Friendliness, openness, and encouragement.
- ▶ Receptive attention.

✓ When taking & answering questions, be supportive of the questioner. Let your face, body, and voice:

- ▶ Reveal the personal feeling the topic of the question stirs in you.
- ▶ Give vitality to the question (& questioner), as you comment how insightful it is.
- ▶ Show understanding and support in your answer.

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