



Professional Development with BSPH CTL

The Engaged Learner: Finding Your Voice



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Learning Objectives

- ▶ Identify key elements that contribute to engaging student learners in presentations.
- ▶ Develop techniques to create a compelling and authentic speaking style.
- ▶ Apply narrative frameworks to structure presentation content for maximum impact.
- ▶ Describe how storytelling can be used to create emotional connections and enhance content retention.
- ▶ Apply the Pixar storytelling framework to a subject in your area of expertise



Poll

If your current presentation voice were a character, what would it be?

- A) The Professor (lots of facts, serious tone)
- B) The Friend (conversational, warm)
- C) The Robot (monotone, predictable)
- D) The Storyteller (engaging, varied)

Photo by Jukka Aalho on Unsplash



Importance of Vocal Variety

“Think of your voice like a wind instrument. You can make it louder, softer, faster, or slower. We are wired to pay attention to these kinds of vocal change, which is why it is so hard to listen to a monotonous speaker. In fact, even just a 10% increase in vocal variety can have a highly significant impact on your audience’s attention to and retention of your message.”

(Abrahams, 2016)

Importance of Connection

"Telling stories is one of the most powerful means that leaders have to influence, teach, and inspire. What makes storytelling so effective for learning? For starters, storytelling forges connections among people, and between people and ideas. Stories convey the culture, history, and values that unite people."

(Reynard, 2022)

Speaking and Storytelling

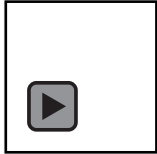




Developing Your Speaking Style

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Speaking Examples



**(EXAMPLE OF
ROBOTIC SOUND)**



**(EXAMPLE OF
REAL FACULTY)**

▶ Hear the difference



Vocal Warm-Ups

Let's try this together

Just like stretching before exercise:

- Hum gently to loosen your vocal cords
- Do lip trills (“brrr”) or tongue twisters to sharpen articulation
- "Whether the weather is cold, or whether the weather is hot, we'll be together, whatever the weather, whether we like it or not."
- Yawn and sigh to open up vocal range



A few things to think about



Speak to your Audience



Be Passionate



Be Authentic

- ▶ Confidence = voice strength. If you're unsure of what you want to say, your voice will sound hesitant.



Record Yourself or Practice Out Loud



How to access the Speaker Coach:

- ▶ Open PowerPoint
- ▶ Open Presentation
- ▶ Select the Slide Show tab.
- ▶ Select Rehearse with Coach. The presentation opens in a full-screen view, like Slide Show.
- ▶ Select Get Started at the lower right when you are ready to begin rehearsing.

Adjust for Online Delivery

A slightly slower pace (audio producers will slow you down if you go too fast)

Extra vocal variation (since body language is limited)

Clear transitions ("Now let's shift to...") to guide learners- but I caution you to watch out for the word "so"

Use a **good mic** (we have loaner microphones)

Reduce background noise if you are in a tele office and sit or stand with open posture to project well.





Storytelling Through Narrative Frameworks

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Narrative shapes reality.



**Narrative shapes processing,
retention, and desire.**



How do we make the leap?



The Pixar Storytelling Framework



The Pixar Storytelling Framework – 2

Once upon a time...

And every day...

Until one day...

And because of this...

And because of that...

Until finally...

The Pixar Storytelling Framework – 3

Once upon a time...	Context of the world
And every day...	Everyday life in the world
Until one day...	Incident that launches the story
And because of this...	The character's journey
And because of that...	New journey the character takes
Until finally...	Resolution of the story

The Pixar Storytelling Framework: Finding Nemo

Once upon a time...	A fish named Marlin was protective of his son Nemo.
And every day...	Marlin warned Nemo that the world was full of danger.
Until one day...	Nemo ignored his dad and swam into the sea.
And because of this...	He was captured by a diver and ended up in a fish tank.
And because of that...	Marlin swam across the ocean to rescue Nemo.
Until finally...	Marlin found Nemo and learned that love depends on trust.

The Pixar Storytelling Framework: A Broader Perspective

Once upon a time...	The problem
And every day...	Existing solutions and why they didn't work
Until one day...	A new solution/discovery
And because of this...	How things changed/the challenges
And because of that...	How things improved/critical roadblocks
Until finally...	The current outcome

The Pixar Storytelling Framework: An Abbreviated Example

Once upon a time...	You get an antibiotic every time you go to the doctor
And every day...	Antibiotic-resistant bacteria are on the rise, and here's the data to prove it!
Until one day...	Strategy for reducing antibiotic overprescription and sparking new research
And because of this...	Reduction in antibiotic-resistant microbes; increase in funding for new antibiotic research
And because of that...	Better health outcomes for people; better incentives for private research
Until finally...	Generations of new antibiotics without living in fear of paper cuts killing us

Activity: Apply the Pixar Framework

Apply the Pixar storytelling framework to a lecture, section of a presentation, or story you already tell in your classes.



Key Takeaways

- ▶ **Finding your voice** means developing a clear, confident, and authentic speaking style that connects with your audience.

- ▶ **Finding your voice** means applying storytelling techniques to your lectures to provide structure, clarity, and deeper impact for students.

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The Pixar Storytelling Framework: Reminder

Once upon a time...	The problem
And every day...	Existing solutions and why they didn't work
Until one day...	A new solution/discovery
And because of this...	How things changed/the challenges
And because of that...	How things improved/critical roadblocks
Until finally...	The current outcome