

Removing Vocal Fillers—Teacher’s choice: "Um Day" (Cerebral) or “Call of Duty: Filler Ops!” (Rambunctious)

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Instructor Instructions

The purpose of these directions is to give instructors a general idea on what to do with this vocal filler exercise.

The video of the MFA 2019 submission can be found here: <https://youtu.be/w8UUApCTBQQ>

The video says it all. There is nothing written in stone. This assignment is meant to be a relaxing way of bringing attention to students’ uses of vocal fillers during a presentation.

You can use as much time as you need to do this assignment, depending on your need.

1. Ask the students to write down some fun/easy topics on small pieces of paper. Topics could include things such as, my last birthday, happy memory, my pet, favorite movie/song/food/actor/actresses, etc.
2. Once everyone has one (or many) topics written down, fold the pieces of papers – so that topics are not visible – and put them together. A hat, a bag, or just on the teacher’s desk could be options.
3. Mix them up. This will be your topic pool.
4. Call a student and ask them to pick up a topic at random from the pool above.
5. Then go, and sit back with the rest of the class, and watch the student present.
6. You may take notes of your own for discussion when the student is done presenting.
7. Repeat steps 4-6 as needed.

You may bring sponge balls to class that day, or ping pong balls – anything that would be fun to throw but would not hurt anyone.

Alternatively, you may just use an app that makes funny noises or just have students make noise with their voice..

There is nothing fixed about this assignment, and that is the simplicity of it. And of course, feel free to reach us anytime you see fit.

Enjoy!