# Enhancing the quality of conversations in education communitie

# Short Read

# WHAT ROLE DOES VOICE PLAY IN COACHING?

We might think of "voice" as the instrument of coaching, the tool with which the coach navigates the GROWTH framework. Yet we are often unconscious of this tool, its impact, its potential and how it might be more strategically used in an authentic and genuine way to achieve the purpose of coaching, which is self-directed learned. So, what is it that your voice conveys? What do you want it to convey in order to be an effective coach? What is within your control to modify and how might it enhance the coaching process? For the purpose of this article, we explore voice as the way words are delivered - a tool of coaching if you like - its sound, tone, rhythm, pitch, volume, modulation – and the impact this might have on the coaching conversation.

Each voice is unique--as unique as your face, your fingerprint. We can identify each other by hearing voice alone. Young children can discern the voice of a parent. At one level, our voice conveys who we are - our sex, age, background, even our status, but it can also convey emotion, mood and judgement. It can be domineering and authoritarian or wondering and invitational. If as coaches, our aim is to move away from more top-down forms of conversation, then we need to be conscious of using voice to demonstrate a genuine curiosity, a tone of expectation and belief in the other. This intentional self-management can convey our coaching way of being.

The GROWTH framework is a set of 'sign posts' that guide a coaching conversation. We use powerful questioning and other key coaching skills to help generate actions, clarity and energy for the coachee Essential to effective coaching is the trusting relationship that the coach builds with the coachee. However, there are many times when a coach will be meeting the coachee for the first time. That is why our 'coaching way of being' is paramount, how we show up to each session, the "message" that we deliver not only in our words, but in our body language, our presence, our listening and, I would suggest, our voice. This is the vehicle that delivers the greeting, the welcome, the explanation, the questions.

What message does your voice convey? Voice is especially important during telephone coaching where it is the primary mode of presenting meaning that the coachee perceives. During face-to-face coaching, body language conveys much of the message of the coach, contributing significantly to what is interpreted. Voice might be seen as part of that, but it can also be explored separately as it is related to the way questions are delivered .....

# **Continue Reading Here**

By Sue Richards, Senior Consultant Growth Coaching International

# **References:**

Covey, S. R. (2004). The 7 habits of highly effective people: powerful lessons in personal change. New York: Free Press Stelter, R. (2019). The art of dialogue in coaching: Towards transformative exchange. London: Routledge Van Nieuwerburgh, C. (2020). An introduction to coaching skills: A practical guide (3rd ed.). London: Sage.

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You can subscribe to our podcast via Apple Podcasts, Spotify and now YouTube. All of our episodes are available on our website.

# HOPE AND ITS IMPACT: TIPS ON THE WHAT, WHY AND HOW

## By John Campbell

Hope is a lofty concept - a bit elusive and hard to measure. It is something nice to aspire to and enjoy but not something to think about all that much perhaps. There is too much to do in the present to hope about the future so we just get on with it. Well it seems that there may be more to hope than just 'wishful thinking'...

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"Thank you for an informative program have a new energy and am confident the

Jane Neary, Head Teacher,

through just one conversation at a time, but many conversations at a time. Conversations that inspire joy, teamwork, purpose and self-belief.

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As in previous issues, it has been created as an interactive Flipping Book, featuring video interviews with leaders in the field and links to other useful resources for coaching in education.

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