

Honoree: Gwendolyn Bradley

Grade Level: 6-8

Subject: Theatre

Introductory Statement: Gwendolyn Bradley is an internationally famous opera singer from South Carolina. In order to be a successful opera singer, a person must learn breath control and support. In theatre, the study of voice and diction also focuses on the importance of supporting the vocal instrument with breath, posture and proper form.

SC Standards Addressed:

T7-2.1 Demonstrate a knowledge of essential acting vocabulary (for example, blocking, objective, motivation, projection, diction, rate, pitch).

T7-2.3 Utilize vocal acting skills (for example, breath control, appropriate tone of voice, voice placement, and effective speech).

Goals/Objectives: To show knowledge of voice and diction techniques in performance

Items/Materials Needed: Copy of tongue twisters or lyrics from Gilbert and Sullivan operetta selections, such as "I Am So Proud" from *the Mikado*, Computer with sound recorder and internet accessibility.

Steps/Strategies: Students will be shown examples of the vocal techniques of volume and articulation, either modeled by the teacher or evidenced in video or audio recording. As a warm-up, students will participate in breath control activities, such as the ones found here:

<http://raiseyourvoiceacting.com/tag/breath-control-vocal-control/>

Activity One: Student will rehearse and read the lyrics reflecting the volume levels of soft, medium and loud. Student performance will be recorded using sound recording technology. Student performances will be played back to the class who will discuss and peer assess the performances, based on aural evidence of volume variety in the three performances.

Activity Two: Students will rehearse and read the lyrics reflecting knowledge of proper pronunciation and articulation of consonant and vowel sounds. The students' performances will be recorded using sound recording technology. Student performances will be played back and students will give themselves a self-assessment, using a written version of the lyrics, on their level of success in articulating each of the consonant and vowel sounds.