



Accent Modification Coaching

Proposal to Assist in Preparation for Thesis Presentation

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I am a Speech-Language Pathologist with a Masters Degree from the University of Utah. My specialty is accent modification. Over the past 30 years I have helped hundreds of non-native speakers become clear and effective communicators of American English. I am also the author of *The American Accent Guide*, a comprehensive book and audio program on training the American Accent. This program is used in universities and language schools as well as by individuals for self-study.

I've had many clients whom I assisted in preparing for their presentations. As a University of Utah alumni, I am enthusiastic to offer my coaching service to U of U students.

I provide my services via an online platform. I have found that even my local clients prefer meeting online, because it is highly efficient and convenient.

I can help interested students deliver their presentations with clarity, effectiveness, and confidence. I offer individual, personalized coaching sessions and will give focus to the following aspects of English communication within the context of the student's presentation.

Pronunciation

Focus on mispronunciations will be as follows:

- Those that may impede the listener's comprehension or distract from the message.
- Those that result in grammatical errors, particularly at word endings.

Voice and Timing Patterns

Attention will be given to the speech aspects intonation, stress, and rhythm and meaningful pauses.

Intonation, Stress, and Pauses

Intonation in English conveys underlying meaning. Intonation and stress together allow you to express more clearly just what you mean. The use of slight pauses between thought units also adds clarity. Together with stress, pauses serve to emphasize important points in your message.

Word Stress – Attention will be given to proper word stress on multisyllabic words that are difficult to comprehend without proper word stress.

Rhythm

The American accent is characterized by an uneven timing of speech segments. For speakers of certain language backgrounds, rhythm is a main obstacle to the intelligibility of their English speech. Where needed, attention will be given to rhythm in order to improve intelligibility.

Non-Verbal Aspects of Communication

Non-verbal aspects of communication, which include body language, eye contact, facial expression and gestures, will be discussed. Internet videos will be recommended as needed for independent practice.

Relaxation

Relaxation techniques, including meditation will be discussed, and online videos will be recommended for practice as needed.

Materials and Equipment

Access to *The AAG Online* will be provided to clients. This is a digitized version of *The American Accent Guide* on a platform that includes 70 videos that vividly demonstrate articulation of the most challenging English speech sounds. Clients will be referred to videos that are specific to their needs as helpful aids in practicing articulation between sessions.

Coaching sessions will be held via an online video platform that is ideal for this purpose. Audio and/or video recordings will be made during sessions for critiquing, and session recordings will be provided to the client for review between sessions.

Pricing

One-hour sessions are offered at the discounted rate of \$60/hour. A minimum of two sessions is recommended. Clients may discontinue sessions when once are satisfied they have achieved the progress they need.

Consultation/interview

I offer, at no cost or obligation, a 20-minute consultation/interview via the video platform I use for coaching sessions. Prospective clients will have the opportunity to meet me, get an idea of how I conduct sessions, and have any questions answered.

To schedule an appointment for a consultation/interview, please send me an email at bev@americanaccentguide.com.

Warmest regards,
Beverly A Lujan