

Self-Coaching Guidelines for Musical Leaders

PRIORITIZE: Working on the most troublesome issue does not necessarily guarantee improvement. You must work on the most basic elements of the troublesome issue and help your singers develop a good foundation of basic habits.

RECORD REHEARSALS and analyze the singing and your teaching skills as well
Listen for “but” and “don’t” in your teaching vocabulary...eliminate them.
At all costs, avoid placing blame. Try to catch them doing it right.
Listen for “we”-ness in your communication with your singers.

ENABLE and **EMPOWER** – help them succeed

USE HUMOR WHENEVER POSSIBLE. A vocal technique taught with humor and positive attitude is more likely to be remembered.

DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO DEMONSTRATE.

Be sure to demonstrate exactly what you want to hear back.
Tape yourself to be sure that your vocal examples are worthy of imitation.

TEACH FOR ALL 3 LEARNING TYPES: auditory, visual, and kinesthetic.

Kinesthetic: body movement that stimulates/enhances good vocal production
 choreo that stimulates/supports/enhances good vocal production
Auditory: vocal demonstrations (you or someone you choose)
 recorded vocal examples (BBS, professional, etc.)
Visual: whiteboard
 overhead projector and transparencies

DEVELOP A LARGE TEACHING VOCABULARY, especially synonyms.

TRUST YOUR GUT as well as your ear.

TEACH TO YOUR STRENGTHS...what you’re good at.

You can’t be afraid to say, “I don’t know.” But follow up that statement by learning whatever it is you don’t know...ASAP.

STAY CURRENT with SAI teaching.

EXPERIMENT WITH YOUR CHAPTER'S MUSICAL LEADERS.

Have them do some “off the beaten track” listening for you.
The members who assist you don't have to sing the part they are
“coaching.” For example, an excellent lead can do a lot of good for
the bass section. An accurate tenor can do a lot to help the baritones.

GIVE THEM ENOUGH REPETITIONS TO REMEMBER.

Getting it right “once in a row” doesn't mean they know it.

EXPLORE NEW TECHNIQUES.

Look for unusual solutions to everyday problems in new and different places.
Try to avoid getting stuck in “it hasn't been done that way before” or
“we've never done it that way” attitudes.

TAKE VOICE LESSONS...you and them.

TEACH THEM TO BE INDEPENDENT SINGERS.

Give them “tools for success” and then teach them how to use them.

**REMEMBER TO READ THE JCDB. You can't prepare them for success if
you don't know what's required.**