

LANGUAGE USED IN CULTURE

*Exploring the Life &
Culture of Law Students*

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WRIT & WIT/LAWYER IN THE MAKING/
MUMBLED TO MEMORABLE/DESIRE FOR ATTIRE



COURTROOM CHRONICLES



WRIT & WIT

WORD CHOICE. BY WAN NURDINI



LAWYER IN THE MAKING

SPEAKER'S PERSONA. BY BATRISYIA DAMIA HUDA

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THE UNIQUE CULTURE OF LAW

The journey of a law student is more than just books, statutes, and court judgments—it is a distinct culture shaped by rigorous study, intense debates, late-night case readings, and a shared passion for justice. From heated moot court competitions to caffeine-fueled study sessions, law students cultivate a lifestyle that blends academic discipline with camaraderie and ambition.

Through our observation of the mock debate held by Section 304, we explore how law students craft their language, persona, delivery and attire. Their choice of words, level of directness, and persuasive techniques reflect the legal mindset they are trained to develop.



A law student's life is filled with debates, whether in class discussions, moot court competitions, or casual conversations. They are trained to analyze both sides of an argument, making them excellent at persuasion. Most law students have a signature look such as dark circles from sleepless nights, a stack of books always in hand, and a formal or semi-formal wardrobe ready for impromptu presentations or internships. Blazers, courtroom-ready attire, and a coffee cup are almost part of the dress code.

In this magazine, we will analyze the word choices, the persona, the pronunciation/articulation and the attire of law students, as observed in Section 304 debate.

WRIT & WIT



Word choice refers to the specific words we select to express our ideas and in our communication process. It affects the tone, clarity, and impact of communication. Law students have **a unique vocabulary** that reflects their academic culture and daily experiences. They develop a communication style that is **precise, persuasive, and confident**, which are essential skills for legal arguments, debates, and courtroom advocacy.

From the observation of a mock debate performed by Section 304, CFS IIUM Law Students, it shows a clear pattern of how law students talk or communicate. They are likely to use legal jargon and terminology, even outside of the academic settings. For example, words like "*jurisdiction*," "*liability*," "*due to process*," may naturally appear in their speech.



Law Students often develop a distinct way of communicating due to the nature of their studies. They tend to be **very precise** in their language by choosing words carefully. Besides that, they often **structure their speech like a legal argument** even in an informal situations.

Over and above that, the law students from section 304 are prone to avoid words that make arguments seem **unsure or hesitant**. For instance, "*I think*," "*maybe*," "*kind of*." In the debate, debaters **express disagreement politely** by saying "*With all due respect, I disagree*." They also soften their criticism with "*I see things a bit differently*," instead of "*You're wrong about this*."

Furthermore, when something is unclear, they would **soften their directness**. For example, one of the debaters said "*Would you mind explaining that in a bit more detail?*" This helps to maintain politeness while keeping the conversation professional and respectful.



WORD CHOICE



CORRECTNESS AND APPROPRIATENESS

The **word choices** used by the law students in their debate are grammatically correct and maintain **formality in Professional and Academic Settings**.

For appropriateness, they will use formal and strong sentence such as *"This argument is flawed as it contradicts the established laws."*

instead of *"This arguments is wrong. The law says otherwise."* The latter sounds informal and emotional compared to the professional and formal version. Thus, appropriateness is important to avoids personal bias or emotional overtones.

POSITIVE EFFECTS

•**Enhanced Persuasion & Influence:** Precise wording can help convey understanding effectively in debates, choosing the right words makes arguments more persuasive, giving students the assurance that they can hold their own in debates, moot courts, and discussions.

•**Increased Confidence & Authority:** Speaking using strong word choices and mastering legal language can boost student's self esteem as they feel confident with their ability.

SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVEMENT

Use Strong Transitional Phrases for Better Flow and avoid Filler Words.

•Filler words such as *"uh," "um,"* could distracts the listeners and makes arguments less structured. It makes speech sound less confident and unprofessional.

•Transitions help connect ideas smoothly and make arguments easier to follow. Debaters can use, *"Let me rephrase that,"* or *"To clarify."*

•Organize thoughts coherently instead of rushing through sentences to make it easier for the audience or judge to follow the argument.

Avoid Using Informal or Slang Language.

•Slang can make them seem unprepared and less serious.

•Avoid using *"You guys,"* or *"You know..."*

•Instead, use *"The opposing team,"* or *"It is important to note..."* to maintain professionalism and credibility in debate.



OVERALL PERSPECTIVE

Law students develop a distinctive communication style influenced by their rigorous training in legal reasoning, argumentation, and precision. Their word choices reflect their mindset, preference for arguments, and awareness of legal principles. However they still have a lot to accomplish in order to improve their professionalism and fluency. This can be done over a lot of practices, thorough preparations and refinements of argumentation techniques in debate.

LAWYER IN THE MAKING

The Power of Persona

Growing up watching the television, you have definitely seen those intense courtroom scenes – cool suits, fierce arguments and the classic “Objection!” moment. But what if I told you that the same energy exists in a classroom full of law students during a mock debate? Welcome to Section 304, where aspiring lawyers sharpen their arguments and flex their rhetorical muscles. As I observed their mock debate during a class presentation with the topic – This House Believes That Government Should Have the Right to Censor Harmful Content Online, one thing stood out: their ability to craft and maintain a compelling speaker’s persona.



WHAT IS SPEAKER'S PERSONA?

To put it simply, a speaker's persona is the way they present themselves when speaking. It has to do with the personality or character that a speaker conveys to their audience through their delivery, tone, and language. Whether a speaker comes across as **authoritative, convincing, or approachable** depends on how they portray themselves. This character is essential in a legal setting. It can have a significant impact on whether an argument, particularly a debate, is won or lost.



The law students demonstrated the traits of competent legal speakers during the Section 304 discussion, including **composure, assurance, persuasiveness, and razor-sharp rebuttals.**

For instance, one student began his argument with “If we are talking about the right to speak, then why should hate speech and commentaries be protected?” His **formal tone immediately established authority.** Another student, when challenged, responded with a cool, “With all due respect, my opponent overlooks a crucial legal precedent.” This **balance of politeness and assertiveness reinforced their credibility** while staying professional.



LAWYER IN THE MAKING

-by trisiyashahrin



POSITIVE EFFECTS

- **Enhanced Credibility and Authority:**

The way a speaker presents them can influence how trustworthy and knowledgeable they appear. During the debate, their calm and steady tone further reinforced their authority. Even when faced with challenging rebuttals, the speakers maintained their composure, which suggested that they were thoroughly prepared, hence, making their points look more convincing. These strengthened the validity of their arguments and increased their overall persuasiveness.

- **Sustained Audience Engagement**

The speakers manage to capture and hold the audience's attention. Their ability to maintain a clear, steady voice and articulate complex ideas in an approachable way helped avoid confusion. This clarity not only made it easier for the listener to follow along, but it also showed how knowledgeable the speaker was about the subject.

OVERALL PERSPECTIVE

From my observation, the law students in Section 304 showed a deep understanding of how to develop and uphold a professional speaker's image. Their logical reasoning, calm delivery, and exact wording reflected their persona. These showcased their ability and readiness for their future careers. However, wider variety of emotional appeals might improve their performance even more. Their arguments would be stronger and more memorable.

CORRECTNESS AND APPROPRIATENESS

There was no doubt that these youngsters were aware of their audience. Their personalities complemented the debate's formal and scholarly environment. Their use of clear and straightforward legal terms made their arguments sound legitimate and easy to understand.

Moreover, the students maintained a steady, composed tone throughout the debate. Even amid impassioned rebuttals, nobody became agitated or raised their voice. This calm delivery not only reinforced their professional persona but also made their argument easier to follow. All things considered, their speaker's demeanour was calm, reasonable, and authoritative—exactly what was expected in a pretend legal argument.

“*Persona, the mask or image we present to the world. Designed to make a particular impression on others, while concealing our true nature.*
-CARL JUNG-

”

HOW TO IMPROVE ONE'S SPEAKER'S PERSONA?

While the students' personas were generally effective, there's always room for growth. One area to enhance is the use of emotional appeal. Legal arguments are not solely based on presenting facts and logical reasoning, they're also about persuading human beings. Adding more relatable examples or rhetorical questions can make their arguments even more compelling. For example, speakers can ask questions that help the audience to reflect deeply on the issue.

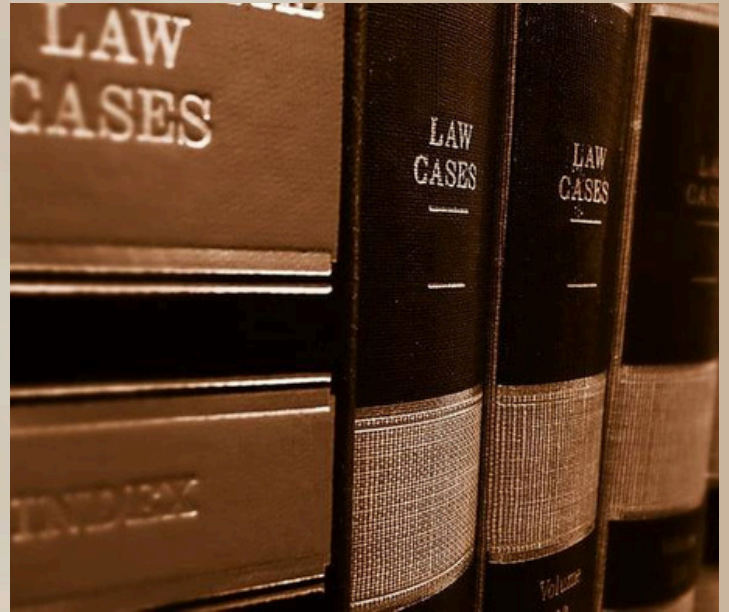
PRONUNCIATION & ARTICULATION

BY: AFIF

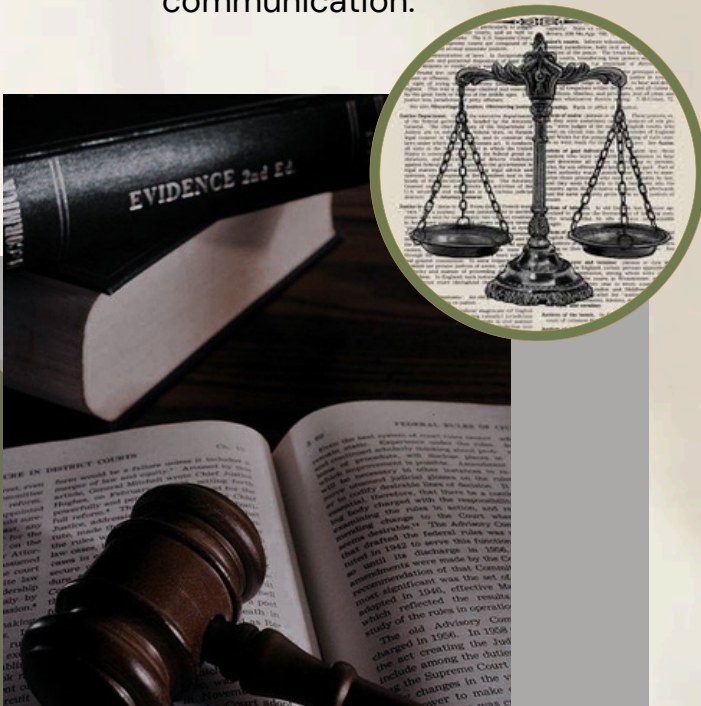
Pronunciation refers to the way a word or language is spoken. It involves the correct production of **sounds and intonation** to make speech understandable. **In law**, it refers to the proper way of saying **legal terms, case names, and formal phrases**, especially those derived from foreign languages.

Articulation refers to the physical process of producing speech sounds using the **tongue, lips, teeth, and vocal cords**. Poor **articulation** might lead to mispronouncing sounds or words making speech harder to understand. **In law**, it refers to the clear and precise expression of **legal arguments, reasoning, or rulings**. A law students must articulate legal points persuasively, ensuring their arguments are **well-structured, logical, and easily understood** by **judges, juries, and clients**.

Proper **Pronunciation** and **Articulation** are essential for legal professionalism, and credibility in courtrooms, negotiations, and legal discussions. Ensures that legal arguments are compelling and easily understood in both spoken and written communication.



The **observation** of the mock debate performed by section 304, CFS IIUM Law students, shows a clear pattern of how law students talk and communicate. The law students work on pronouncing legal terms correctly and articulating their arguments clearly to ensure effective communication in courtrooms and in the middle of their discussions.



Based on the **observation**, the mock debate shows how the law students argue cases convincingly, ensuring judges, lecturer, and peers understand their points without confusion. The usage of legal terms in law defend their cases to convince other people trust in the courtroom, highlights their statement and avoid any ambiguity. For example, **argument, authority, evidence, and affirmative**. The way they express legal concepts clearly and impactfully through well-articulated speech.

MUMBLED TO MEMORABLE

POSITIVE EFFECTS

- **Enhanced Clarity in Communication**
Ensures that legal arguments and presentations are easily understood. The way they delivered their speech with complex legal terms with proper pronunciation and confident. Clear articulation in expressing their legal arguments concisely to avoid ambiguity or misunderstandings among the audiences.
- **Increased Confidence and Credibility**
Speaking fluently with correct pronunciation enhances self-assurance during oral arguments and courtroom simulations. With the proper articulate their words clearly appear more professional and authoritative, which strengthens their credibility in discussions.

CORRECTNESS & APPROPRIATENESS

The proper Pronunciation and Articulation are essential for effective communication, legal advocacy, and professionalism. It ensures the accurate pronunciation of legal terms (arguments, authority, evidence, and affirmative) and clear articulation to prevent misunderstandings. Mispronouncing legal terms or mumbling can weaken credibility in proper legal discussions. It is also involves using a formal and professional tone, adjusting speech pace and volume, and ensuring clarity based on the audience -whether addressing a judge or client.



SUGGESTION FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Try to control the pace of the speech and avoid speaking too fast that can cause words to blend together, making legal arguments unclear, while speaking too slowly may reduce engagement and impact. Practice controlling your pace, emphasizing key legal terms and pausing strategically for clarity but avoid using fillers ("UH" and "UM").
- Speaking loudly enough to be heard in a courtroom but avoiding excessive force that may seem aggressive. Practicing breath control and voice projection helps maintain a steady pace and appropriate volume.

OVERALL PERSPECTIVE

Ultimately, law requires precise communication, whether in court, moot competitions, or client interactions. The proper communication help to convey confidence and credibility. The way they improve in intonation and also pronunciation might lead to persuasive speech.



Attire and appearance are forms of nonverbal communication that allow others to interpret an individual through externally available information, instead of having to rely solely on inner representational resources (Angerosa, 2014).

DESIRE FOR ATTIRE

Other than their way of talking or walking, people actually most look forward to the way these **law students** dress up. I can guarantee that 70 out of 100 of their auras is based on their appearance. In simple terms, it is about how a person wants to be perceived by allowing others to observe their attire. What is attire? It is the **physical external appearance** of the communicator in view of delivering messages.

In the context of culture, specifically for Law students in CFS IIUM, starting from the beginning of Semester 2, a rule was enforced requiring a **full black and white attire** every Wednesday. Relying on this matter, an interview with the **Vice President of Melex, Sr. Sarah Kamilia** was conducted.

From the interview, she said that black and white is globally a **tradition** for the legal profession. It is also universally recognized as a **neutral color**, symbolizing a lawyer's ability to listen to both sides in any communication. However in CFS IIUM, "**The purpose of implementing the black and white attire is to provide each student with an experience,**" said the Vice President.

The point is to help them **adapt** as legal practitioners, so adhering to the regulation is a **practical step**. Another aspect related to attire is **tidiness**. According to Sr. Sarah, tidiness is quite subjective. It can refer to both our appearance and how we manage our studies.

Being a law student does not necessarily mean they must wear black and white all the time. They can wear anything, as long as it is tidy, and it will still draw a lot of attention.



Based on our observation in sections **301 and 304 lecture**, there are differences in the way they present themselves.

While the group for the mock debate from section 301 wears coordinated black and white attire, the representatives from section 304 are dressed in stylish and **well-put-together** outfits, though not in black and white. These observations suggest that by looking at their attire, I can assume they are taking the project seriously. Even so, that does not necessarily reflect the quality of someone's preparations.



How is it correct and appropriate?

The practical steps taken by law students are **correct and effective**. Their actions aim to make life at CFS as **realistic** as possible, even improving it further. This approach fosters a sense of **responsibility and discipline**. In terms of appropriateness, the attire of the law students is undeniably fitting. It adheres to the **Shariah compliance standards** that are important at CFS IIUM. The attire itself reflects **modesty**.

What to improve?

Adaptability – Although the Law Society (Melex) has implemented the rules and many students follow them, some still choose not to comply. This affects no one but themselves, as it may lead to a lack of experience during their time at CFS. Therefore, this practical step should be followed properly.

What do we get when we dress up?

- **Confidence Booster**

Wearing the right attire for our presentation creates a **sense of comfort**. When we feel comfortable in our clothes, it boosts our confidence and prepares us mentally for the task at hand. As our Vice President of Melex says, **"It reflects who we are."**

- **Self-empowerment**

When we dress in a way that reflects our personal preferences, it helps us **recognize our values and confidence**. Similarly, when a law student dresses appropriately, it creates a positive impression of them.

Awareness – Dress well! It's important to be clean and tidy, as it reflects your personality and helps establish your identity. As a law student, it's essential to be mindful of how you present yourself. This isn't just about attire, but also about the legal profession, which involves complex studies. A well-being and healthy environment are crucial to staying focused on your work.

ATTIRE

All in all, it is a blast of joy to observe the culture of the Law students in CFS. With regard to attire, I can say that most of them have a **great sense of fashion** and present themselves as they wish to be known. From their hair and hijab styles to the elegant inner and outer wear, the shiny shoes, and not to mention the trendy accessories, they show attention to detail in every aspect. Nevertheless, attire does not necessarily reflect your preparation for a task. You can dress fashionably but still stumble in your speech, as I've experienced myself. Therefore, **balance** is essential in university life.

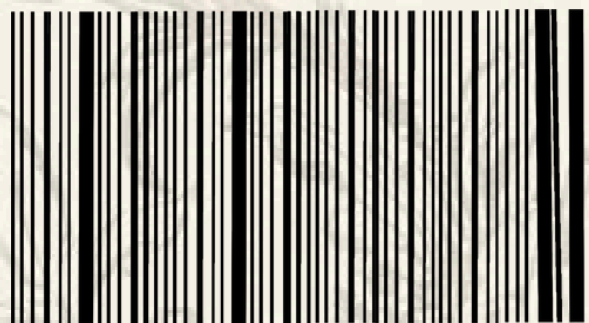
WRITTEN BY,

Wan Nurul
Hannah



Overall Commentary

As a conclusion, understanding the significant use of communicative delivery aspects such as word choice, speaker's persona, pronunciation/articulation and attire helps to ensure clarity, sincerity, and effectiveness in conveying messages, as highlighted in this magazine. These practical things that they practice can somehow reflect on our daily life. For instance, when performing Salah, clarity in pronunciation and articulation while reciting the Surah and Dua are very important. Furthermore, just as attire plays a big role in establishing credibility, in Salah one must be in a state of purity and wear appropriate clothing as a form of respect. On the other hand, developing good word choice and speaker's persona will eventually bring a lot of benefit towards one's career path especially during interviews and work presentations that require interacting with other people. To conclude based on observation, the culture of law students are filled with disciplines and responsibility. However, they are still students who are eager to learn and improve, therefore we should not put high expectations towards them. By improving their word choice, speaker's persona, pronunciation/articulation and attire, we believe that they can establish a more defined personality as a law student.



LANGUAGE USED IN CULTURE

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