**PitchVantage Setup Sheet**

1. Students in section 15808 can register for PitchVantage here: [bit.ly/sec15808](http://bit.ly/sec15808)

You can type the URL into your browser; all letters are lower case

1. Log into the PitchVantage cloud site -after registering an account- here <https://cloud.pitchvantage.com/> and please use Google Chrome as your web browser.
2. You should adjust your sound recording settings before using PitchVantage ([Windows](https://support.pitchvantage.com/solution/articles/6000064223-adjust-sound-recording-settings-for-windows-users" \t "_blank):[Mac](https://support.pitchvantage.com/solution/articles/6000063268-adjust-sound-recording-settings-for-mac-users)), and you should use [headphones with a mic](https://support.pitchvantage.com/solution/articles/6000091820-how-do-i-use-a-headset-) or headset when practicing with the software.
3. [This video](https://youtu.be/ZGp5mI_ALK0) explains how you should use PitchVantage and gives tips on how to improve your scores. Please watch it when you are ready to start practicing with the software.

If you run into any issues, please check the [support website](https://support.pitchvantage.com/support/home) for solutions or reach out directly to PitchVantage at [support@pitchvantage.com](mailto:support@pitchvantage.com)

These tips can help you with PitchVantage and achieve significant improvement

**Tip 1: Focus on relative improvement, NOT absolute score**

Your personal improvement is much more important than the absolute score, and **incorporating feedback is the only way to improve**. Regardless of your first score, you should review your video, go through the feedback, and work to improve on “Average” and “Needs Improvement” areas. The PitchVantage scoring system compares your vocal delivery to your peers’ best performances. Tens of thousands of students have used PV and most people start in the 40s, so don’t get discouraged.

**Tip 2: Use a headset and adjust your sound settings**

You will repeatedly see the message to adjust your sound recording settings and use a headset/headphone with a microphone/iPhone earbuds to record. This is crucial because it **eliminates background noise**. Background noise in your recordings will negatively impact your scores and lead to incorrect feedback.

**Tip 3: It is all about variability**

Pitch variability is a key part of your PitchVantage score, because it shows how engaging you are to your audience. Your natural speaking voice may be monotonous, so PitchVantage will challenge you to **come out of your comfort zone and explore your range of pitch possibilities**. Click [**Here**](https://pitchvantage.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/6000200257-pitch-variability-exercises)for exercises to improve your pitch variability.

**Tip 4: The audience reacts based on how well you present**

The audience reactions are based entirely on how engaging your delivery is. The audience will nod their heads if you have good pitch, pace, and volume variability. If you are monotonous and boring, they will look away, talk to each other, and act distracted. In PitchVantage, just as in real life, you need to pick up on audience cues to keep their attention. **Your goal in PitchVantage is to get as many head nods as possible.**

**Tip 5: The key to pausing**

If you don’t pause, your audience doesn’t have time to comprehend you. The easiest way to incorporate more long pauses is to **take a breath after you complete a sentence or idea**. Click [**Here**](https://pitchvantage.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/6000200258-pausing-exercise)for exercises to improve your pausing.

**Tip 6: Email support!**

We treat your issues very seriously, but **we cannot help you if you don’t contact us first!** Email **support@pitchvantage.com** with any issues you have, especially sound recording issues (no speech registered, bad sound quality, etc.).