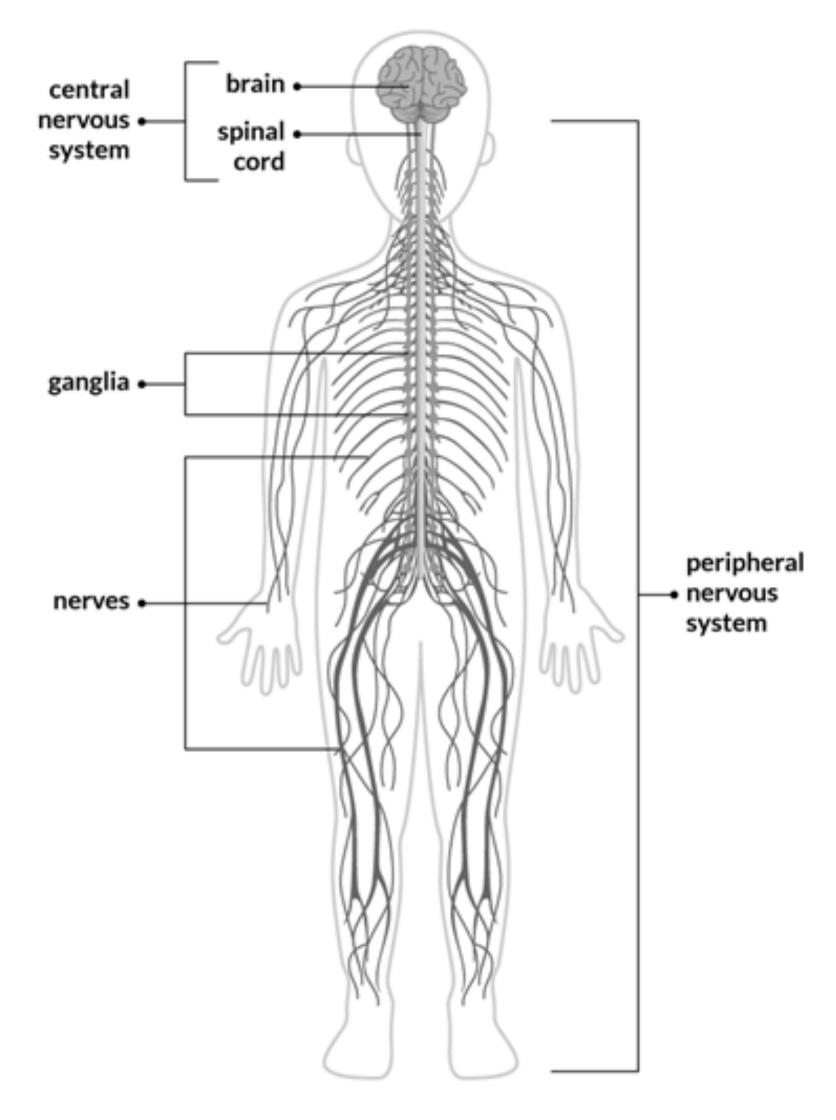
## "All the procedures by which one mind may affect another"

- C. E. Shannon & W. Weaver 1949

#### The Nervous System



Canadian Cancer Society

CONSCIOUS

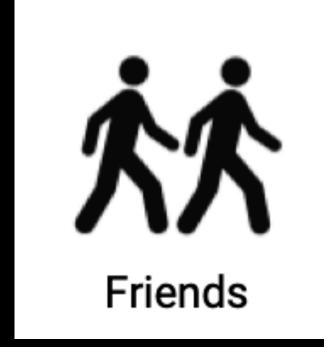
UNCONSCIOUS

50 bits/second 11m bits/second

## Make it for the

receiver







Technical
English









### The Royal Family 🐶 @RoyalFamily · 52s

The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon.

The King and The Queen Consort will remain at Balmoral this evening and will return to London tomorrow.

## Technical English

Words & grammar for universal understanding

#### THE BIG IDEA

# Technical English is a different operating system for writing & speaking in English.

- 1 Technical English uses plain words and short sentences.
- 2 Technical English is both clear & specific.
- 3 Technical English makes all receivers feel included.

endeavour > try

visualize > see

terminate > end

transmit > senc

functionality > features, or how it works

We'll use SEO.

We'll use Search Engine Optimization (SEO).

It's effective against SQL injections.

It helps protect your data from attacks.

- 1 Technical English uses plain words and short sentences.
- 2 Technical English is both clear & specific.
- 3 Technical English makes all receivers feel included.

### The process runs a lot faster. CLEAR, but

- > We reduced latency from 10ms to 1ms. SPECIFIC, but
- > We cut delays 10%. CLEAR & SPECIFIC

ALTERNATE > We cut delays 10%. They're now 1 ms.

CLEAR & MORE SPECIFIC

### (Generally) sentences < 25/30 words

(Often) sentences express only one or two thoughts.

- 1 Technical English uses plain words and short sentences.
- 2 Technical English is both clear & specific.
- 3 Technical English makes all receivers feel included.

fireman > fire fighter

policemen > police officers

mankind > humans, humanity or humankind

## Exceptions only when 100% certain the pronoun matches the person

Are you using inclusive terms?

Are you using the plainest words? Are you avoiding words the receiver(s) might not understand? Are statements supported by facts/data? Are most sentences <25-30 words?

#### THE BIG IDEA

## Technical English makes information easier to understand quickly.

"There are two types of speakers, those that are nervous and those that are liars."

- Mark Twain

### Remain anxious

Train the butterflies to fly in formation

"The best speakers know enough to be scared ...

... the only difference between the pros and the novices is that the pros have taught the butterflies to fly in formation."

- Edward R. Murrow

"Reverse plumbing" wet <> dry

Easily agitated/jumpy

Stomach upset

Hesitant

Looking down/away

Forgetful

Fidgety/swaying/swivelling/rigid

Foggy brain

## Feeling

#### Tactic

"I can't stand the idea of standing in front of all those people"	Think of how you are helping
"I'm going to make a fool of myself"	Think of the role you are in
"This is so important to me"	Focus on the present
"I need to know the right way to do this"	Accept there is no single way
"I don't know how"	Learn the craft of speaking

## Win the beginning

Make pauses positive

Before the talk

On the day

Practice, practice, practice

Dress for comfort + confidence

Watch other talks

Get there early

Imagine your audience

Know the first 15 seconds well

Use only material you believe in

Take two deep breathes

# Remember It's a talk It's not a recital

## Content

## Talk about things you know

Talk about things that will be useful to the audience

Organize a three-part structure

3

## Beginning

What's something that will get people wanting to know more?

### Middle

Three things

(Examples? Ideas? Suggestions? Facts? Events? Etc.)

#### End

What's something you want people to remember?

Make them things you know

## Beginning

What's something that will get people wanting to know more?

#### Get attention

Fascinating fact/puzzling question

Promise

Story

Scenario/metaphor

Show & tell

Middle

### Keep attention

Make it easy to follow

Use signposts to help "see" your structure

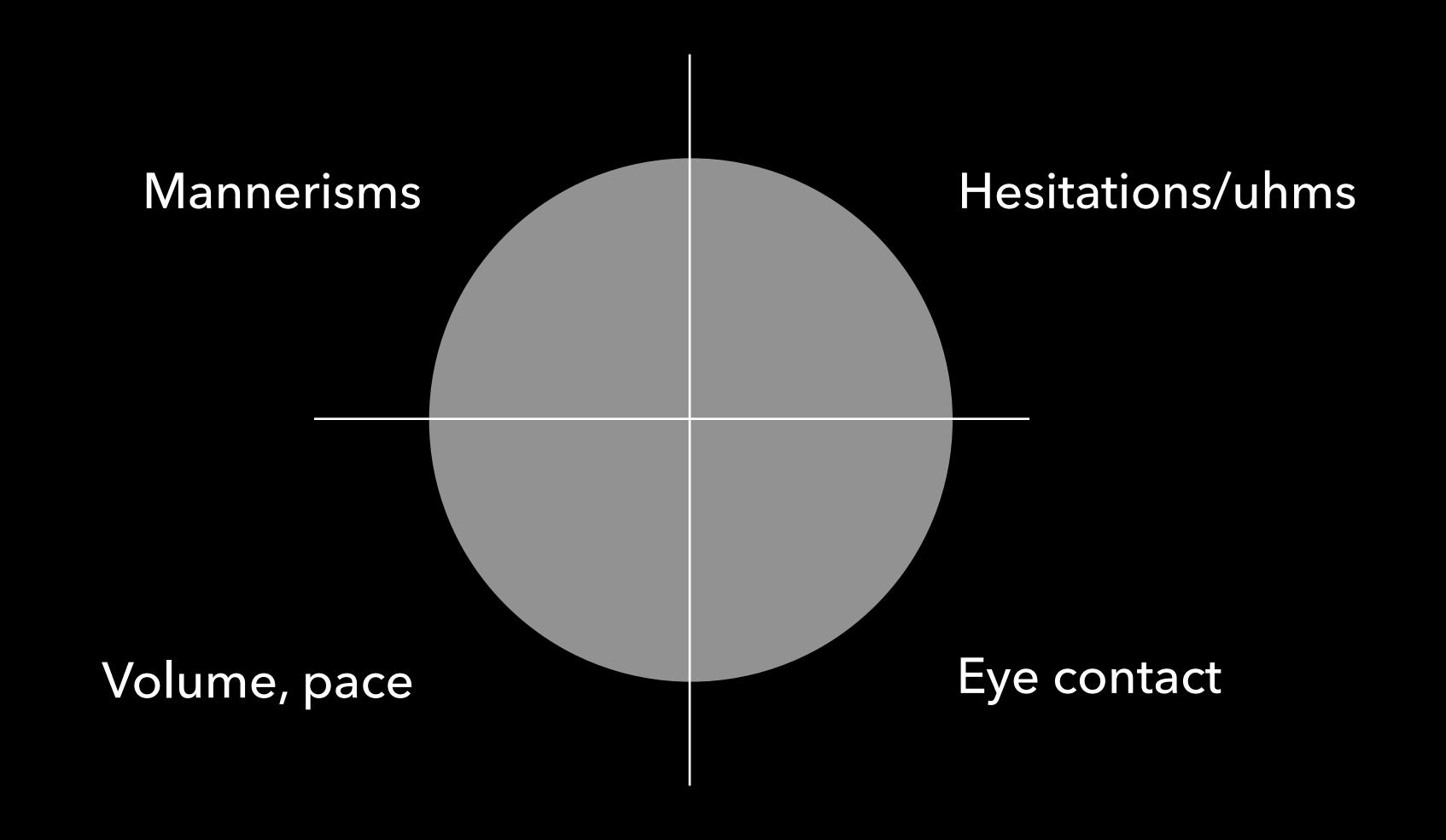
3 —

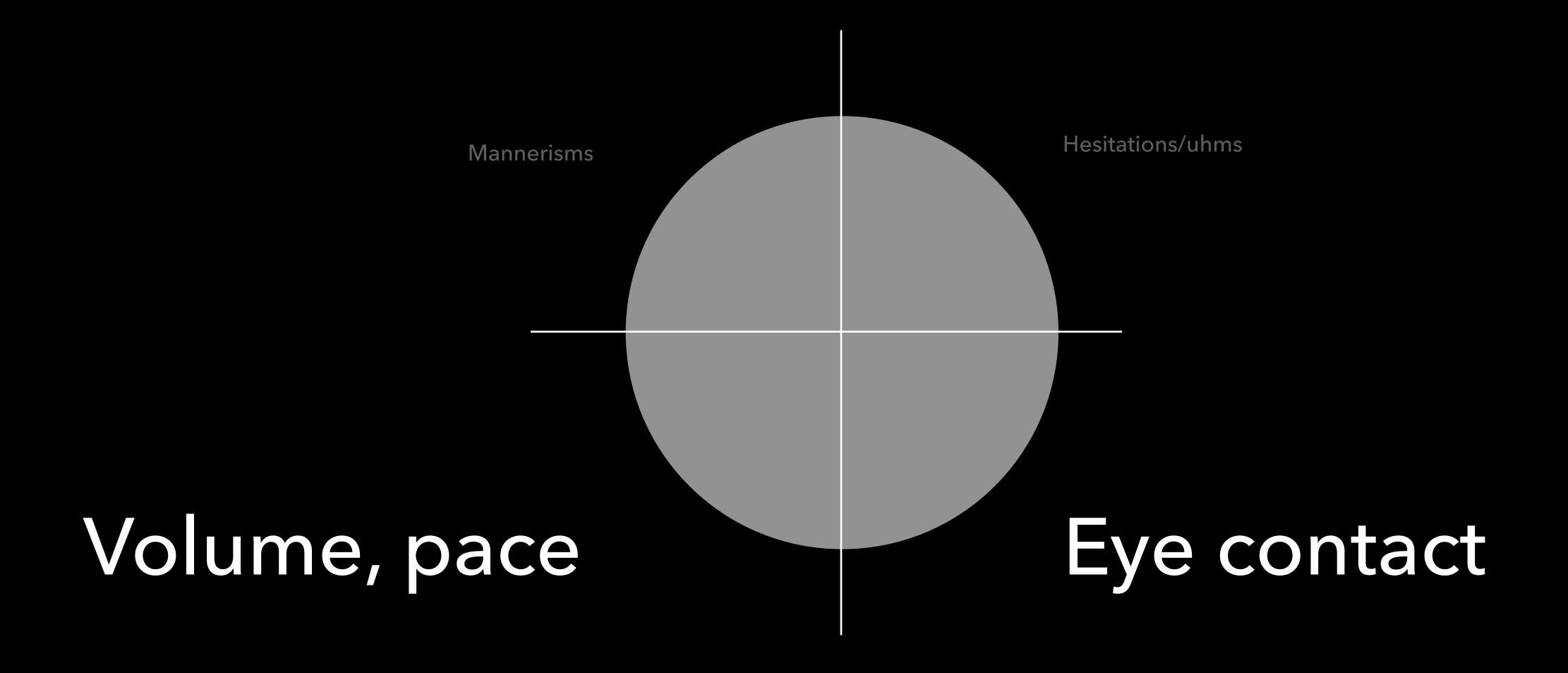
Ena

Earn attention for next time

Something was memorable

## Delivery



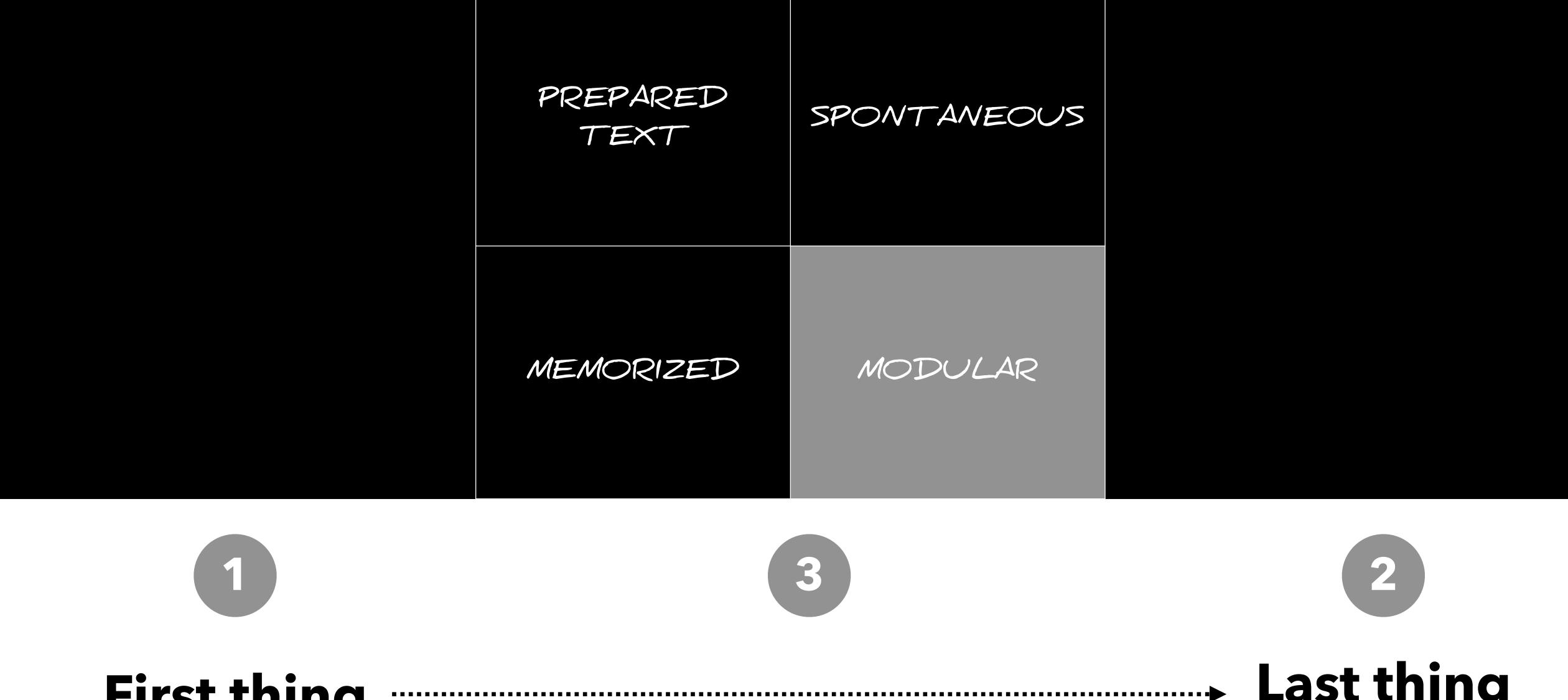


PREPARED

SPONTANEOUS

MEMORIZED

MODULAR



First thing you will say

Three other things you want to say - any order -

Last thing you will say

Talk about things you know.
Think of the opening, closing and three things to say in between.
Say it over and over again, to yourself, and out loud.
Before you start, take two deep breathes.
Speak slightly louder and slightly slower, and make eye contact with someone

#### THE BIG IDEA

## Turn a talk into a conversation with a close friend.

#### References

C. Shannon & W. Weaver, *The Mathematical Theory of Communication*, Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1949

"The nervous system," Canadian Cancer Society, [Online] Available: https://cancer.ca/en/cancer-information/cancer-types/neuroblastoma/what-is-neuroblastoma/the-nervous-system, [Accessed: Aug. 17, 2022]

"(Information theory) Physiology" *Britannica*, [Online] Available: https://www.britannica.com/science/information-theory/Physiology, [Accessed Aug 17, 2020]

The Royal Family (@RoyalFamily), "The Queen died peacefully at Balmoral this afternoon," Twitter, Sept 8, 2022 [Online]

P. Clark, Murder Your Darlings, New York: Little, Brown, Spark, 2020

T. Ewald, Writing in the Technical Fields, 3rd ed., Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2020

M. Abrahams, "Presenting Confidently" In Speaking Up Without Freaking Out - 50 Techniques for Confident and Compelling Presentations, Third Edition. (pp. 49-66). Los Angeles, California: Kendall Hunt, 2010-16