

CRAFT – OO Vowel

- Keep a smile in the eyes
- Practice an **AHH** vowel
 - Think tall vowel
 - Show your top teeth
 - Make the sound spin behind your top teeth like smoke
 - Make the sound project into a ball about 6 inches in front of your face
 - Extend the bottom jaw to increase space in the mouth and resonance – with no tension
 - Make sure that your teeth are at least 2 fingers apart (put 2 fingers in your mouth)
 - Keep the tongue flat at the bottom of your mouth, gently resting behind your bottom teeth (no tension in the tongue)
- Without changing anything else, change from the **AHH** to an **OO** vowel
 - Make sure you keep the same distance between your teeth
 - Keep the **AHH** vowel size inside your mouth
 - Bring your lips up to form the **OO** shape
 - Make sure the bottom jaw is forward so that the bottom lip is sticking out slightly
 - Make a trumpet shape with your lips
 - Don't let the sound of the **OO** vowel go backwards into your mouth – keep it forward into the ball about 6 inches in front of your face
 - Think the word **who** (don't let the chorus get away with an **AW** sound)
- Start with half the chorus and get them to build up to the **OO** vowel by starting with your best singers
 - Add the stronger singers one at a time
 - Repeat this with the other half of the chorus
 - Do this with a Barbershop tune up chord with the entire chorus – they need to be able to hear their neighbours
 - Keep thinking the word **who**
- Ask the chorus to sing the old **OO** (no room in the mouth; teeth too close together; jaw not forward; arched tongue; flat lips = GIRLY)
 - Immediately change to the new **OO** = MUSICALLY STRONG
- Sing a song on the **OO** vowel only..... maybe inch worm or something like that
 - While they are singing remind the chorus
 - Think tall vowel
 - Project the sound into the ball 6 inches in front of your face
 - Keep an **AHH** size shape in your mouth
 - Keep the teeth 2 fingers apart, with lips covering teeth
 - Extend the bottom jaw
 - Keep the tongue relaxed and flat on the bottom of your mouth
 - Trumpet the lips with the bottom lip protruding slightly
 - Keep the sound forward
 - Think **who**
- And finally – DO ALL OF THIS WITH A SMILE IN THE EYES