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Tongue-Tied?: A Guide to the Flute Articulation for the Music Educator **Worksheet for Educators**

Difficulties in teaching articulation...

- a. It's just HARD to make a sound!
- b. No air resistance
- c. Students learn to move air first without the aid of the tongue
- d. Trying on their own adds tension
- e. Teachers default to consonant default

Step 1: Correct Breathing on the flute

- a. Flute requires the most air of the wind instruments, so it is intrinsic to all technical elements
- b. "Ha-wa-ii breath" (Lead guided group breathing exercise)

Step 2: Tone Production on the Flute

- c. Three pillars of sound production...
 - a. **Air Direction**
Placement of air column changes for range (down for low, across for middle, high for high, all supported by the "wet part" of the lip, the bottom especially)
 - b. **"Air Reed"**
The vibrative column that spins into the flute cannot be too short
 - c. **Contact**
Three points of contact on the flute (RH thumb, LH lower pointer phalange, and chin)

Step 3: Body Mapping the Face/Tongue

- a. Practice the "neutral" tongue with "AH"
- b. No tension in jaw
- c. Mouth shape
- d. Jaw does NOT move! (Watch in the mirror)

Step 4: Isolating the Air Attack

"Hah" Air Attacks to "Tah"

- a. Where does the tongue strike? (alveolar ridge)
- b. How does the tongue strike? (One tastebud, etc.)
- c. (Two Student exercises, in progressive difficulty)

- d. Step 4B: Once your students start to incorporate the stop consonant, we can actually diagnose the quality of air and tone and breathing. (Student exercise)

Aside: Let's talk consonant vs. resultant vowels

Flute Articulation Pedagogy: The Effect of Language-Specific Consonant
Pronunciation on a Flutist's Articulation within the French and English Languages

https://etd.ohiolink.edu/acprod/odb_etd/etd/r/1501/10?clear=10&p10_accession_num=osu1338398069

- Oral Stop Consonants: "T" & "D"
- Velar Stop Consonants: "K" & "G"
- Resultant Vowels: "T-oo" or "T-ah"

Step 5: Advancement

- a. Double Tonguing - Combination of oral stop and velar stop consonants
(“T” and “K” or “D” and “G”)
- b. Student Exercises