

TYPES OF COACHES

COMPLETE COACH

This type of coach is qualified in all phases of the barbershop art form. The coach is entirely responsible for music selection, interpretation and presentation. The coach selects costumes and advises on all things barbershop, both on and off the stage. The group essentially makes all decisions without the input of the complete coach.

ALL AROUND COACH

This coach is also qualified in all phases of the barbershop art form. The coach and the group together make the best decisions for the group. The coach advises the group when it seems reasonable to get other outside coaching in some phase of performing, arranging, costuming and showmanship.

SPECIALTY COACH

This coach is primarily an expert in one or two important elements of the barbershop art form. This type of coach is often used by a group in addition to any regular coach they may have.

CHORUS DIRECTOR OR QUARTET MEMBER COACH

This type of coach usually has a limited amount of time for coaching, but can be a valuable resource, because of her musical experience, and can be of great help to local groups.

FIFTH EAR

This person could be anyone who has a good ear, time, and a willingness to listen and tell the group what flaws they hear in the performance. The fifth ear may not always have a coaching solution to the problem, but can be a valuable resource pinpointing areas that need improvement.

ANALYST

Finds the problem – just says, “fix it.” Doesn’t always have a solution but recognizes the problem.

TECHNICAL/LEFT-BRAIN

Takes the technical approach to all problems and solutions. Does not relate well to imagery or feelings. Suggests solutions from the technical approach.

CREATIVE/RIGHT-BRAIN

Talks about feelings and sensations, Relates word pictures and images, uses descriptive adjectives. Might not always understand the technical aspects of singing or doesn't want to introduce that element when trying to solve creative problems

DEMONSTRATOR

Is able to define problems, and then successfully demonstrate the vocal quality, tone or visual picture desired. Sometimes uses taped or video examples of desired performances for group to imitate.

TYRANT

Tends to bully the group. Makes them conform to specific techniques and ideas. Aggressive personality—not afraid of confrontation. Her way or the highway!

PERMISSIVE

Has a very gentle approach—tends to avoid criticism. Believes you get more from the singers by always being positive. Works a lot on building confidence and self-esteem of the singers.

ARRANGER

Works through the arrangement to obtain the best creative musical product. Usually works with higher-level groups who have excellent vocal skills and who understands the art form.

PART SPECIALIST

Spends biggest percentage of time coaching one voice part—not the best choice for using as an all around coach, but excellent for building individual part skills.

VOICE TEACHER

Focuses most attention on building individual vocal skills of each singer. Is mostly interested in techniques to help build the group skills as a whole by improving each individual singer's skills.

CATEGORY SPECIALIST

Works on specific category to increase overall knowledge of the group. Ideal to have a coach in each category—ideal but probably not available to most groups.

SUPER COACH

Able to combine many or all of the above styles. Recognizes the most important needs of the group and is able to prioritize the problems. Sees the overall big picture.