

DEAF INTERPRETER-HEARING INTERPRETER TEAMS

Instructor Guide Student Activity: Employment Settings

The purpose of this activity sheet is to provide students with the opportunity to assess and justify the use of DI-HI teams. This Instructor Guide includes a reading material that provides a foundation for discussions, considerations, and responses to the Student Activity Guide.

Directions: When answering the following questions, be sure to consider various factors and provide justification for each of your answers.

Questions:

1. Describe an employment scenario in which you feel a DI would be justified. What would cause you to think a DI was needed on the team? What would your conversation with the consumer look like? How would you justify the need for a DI to the employer?

ANSWER: Various but should include:

1. Deaf consumers can be confident that:
 - a. His/her language use will be accurately assessed to determine a target language/communication form.
 - b. The DI will use variety of strategies to draw out information and seek clarification of meaning.
 - c. "Potential gaps (e.g. informational, experiential, educational, visual, protocol, cognitive, memory, cultural, or frame of reference) relative to the particular interaction or setting will be identified in order to determine a target language/communication strategy consistent with the experiential and linguistic framework of the Deaf consumer and appropriate to situational protocol" (NCIEC Deaf Interpreter Work Team, 2010, p.5).
 - d. S/he will be able to express themselves more freely without concern for misunderstanding and/or misinterpretation.
 - e. S/he can be less concerned about cultural misunderstandings knowing that the DI shares his/her culture. The DIs' mere presence will curtail a potential feeling of isolation.
 - f. S/he may experience less stress from the positive psychological impact of DI's presence due to a sense of sameness they share.

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- g. The DI will act as a communication advocate to ensure understanding and communication
- h. "The DI will apply his/her understanding and life experience of the history and significance of oppression in the Deaf community in analysis of power relationships among participants within the interpreted interaction in order to determine how the consumer's position within the power dynamic might influence interpreting decisions or strategies" (NCIEC Deaf Interpreter Work Team, 2010, p. 5).
- i. Communication will be accurate and clear resulting in optimal understanding
- j. There is greater efficiency of language access resulting in a more cost effective exchange.
- k. "The interaction will be monitored to determine whether interpreting is effective and when it might be appropriate to stop the proceedings and offer appropriate alternative resources ensuring clarity of communication" (NCIEC Deaf Interpreter Work Team, 2010, p. 6).
- l. Appropriate clarification of culturally based information will occur and will result in a reduced number of cultural misunderstandings that occur.

2. If an employer were resistant to hiring a DI, what would your response be? How would you convince them of the benefits of having a DI?

ANSWER: Various but should include:

- 1. Both hearing and Deaf consumers can be confident that:
 - a. Communication will be accurate and clear resulting in optimal understanding
 - b. There is greater efficiency of language access resulting in a more cost effective exchange.
 - c. "The interaction will be monitored to determine whether interpreting is effective and when it might be appropriate to stop the proceedings and offer appropriate alternative resources ensuring clarity of communication" (NCIEC Deaf Interpreter Work Team, 2010, p. 6).
 - d. Appropriate clarification of culturally based information will occur and will result in a reduced number of cultural misunderstandings that occur.

3. If a consumer were resistant to working with a DI, would you try to convince them of the value of a DI? How would you explain the benefits to them of bring a DI onto the scene?

ANSWER: Various including a combination of points from both #1 and #2 above.

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