

### Action Plan – Matching Affect

**Goal - Skill to improve:**

Incorporate effective and observable expressions of emotion and assuredness, such as facial expressions, gestures, etc.

**Source:** English

**Target:** ASL

**Related terms:** emotion, tone

**Root cause - What is causing the error in your work?**

- While you were interpreting, did you simultaneously check the affect in the work to see if it was appropriately produced? (monitoring)

**Knowledge Resources:**

1) Review Codes 44A-C in Interpretation Skills: English to American Sign Language by Marty M. Taylor, Ph.D. (available for purchase at <http://www.aslinterpreting.com>)

2) Read “Who’s in Charge Here?: Perceptions of Empowerment and Role in the Interpreting Setting” by Marina McIntire and Gary Sanderson at [http://www.rid.org/UserFiles/File/pdfs/whos\\_in\\_charge\\_here.pdf](http://www.rid.org/UserFiles/File/pdfs/whos_in_charge_here.pdf)

**Activities:**

1) Create an audio recording of yourself describing in English your best day ever and why, then your worst day ever and why. Mark specific areas within the text where affect was emphasized in your natural English. Brainstorm how you would convey those areas through facial expressions, gestures, etc.

2) Record an audio reading of the statements below. Each statement should be read separately with each of the following emotions: animated, depressed, irritated, sarcastic, worried. Film your English-to-ASL interpretation of the statements, focusing on matching affect. Determine if there is a pattern with any specific emotion that was incorrectly expressed.

- All representatives are busy helping other customers, please remain on the line and we will answer your call as quickly as possible.
- Thank you for calling Dr. Dwight’s office. If this is an emergency please hang up and dial 911. If not, please select from the following options. For appointments press one, for an insurance issue push two, for a nurse push three, to leave a message push four.
- The person you have called is not available. Please leave your name, number and a brief message after the beep.
- To expedite your call, please have your account number or social security number ready for the next available customer service representative.

3) Access the website <http://www.youtube.com/user/avbria> and watch the video clip “GUESS WHO SHOWED UP IN MY BEDROOM”. Shadow (copy) the affect and facial expressions of the deaf person. When you are ready, film yourself shadowing (no need to memorize, just watch it and mimic the deaf person simultaneously), focusing on the exhibited affect. Review the work, marking effective and less effective areas and probable root cause(s).

4) Open “Sheryl WuDunn: Our century's greatest injustice” from [http://www.ted.com/talks/sheryl\\_wudunn\\_our\\_century\\_s\\_greatest\\_injustice.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/sheryl_wudunn_our_century_s_greatest_injustice.html). Film an English-to-ASL interpretation from time marker 8:27-11:05 of the clip, focusing specifically on producing effective affect. Review the interpretation with the sound off to gauge effective and less effective areas of affect.