

Action Plan – Constructed Action/Dialogue

Goal - Skill to improve:

Improve the act of becoming the characters and objects within an ASL message, and showing action or dialogue rather than telling about it; during constructed action/dialogue, the interpreter's eye gaze looks towards space/characters

Source: English

Target: ASL

Related terms: role-shifting, characterization

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

- Did you have a clear mental picture of what the hearing person meant? (visualization)
- Do you usually recognize good opportunities to use constructed action/dialogue? (analysis)
- Do you know how to use constructed action/dialogue effectively? (reformulation)

Knowledge Resources:

1) Read this resource from your center library: "Linguistics of American Sign Language: An Introduction" (Valli, Lucas, and Mulrooney) p. 506-508. The video of the ASL text "Oklahoma City Bombing" described in the article is included on the DVD at the back of the book (4th edition) – watch it and look for the constructed action/dialogue example.

2) Read this resource: <http://www.dailywritingtips.com/show-dont-tell/> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Show,_don't_tell. How is this English writing strategy similar to using constructed action and constructed dialogue in ASL?

Activities:

1) Keep a journal of how you, Deaf people, and interpreters use constructed action/dialogue effectively. Which verbs are easy for you to show with constructed action? Journal about why some types of verbs are more of a challenge for you in your work.

2) Look for use of constructed action/dialogue in ASL stories. Watch online videos, such as Deaf Ninja (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L91KVUXRBq8>) and "Mountain Dew Story" (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yf15i_i4Dwo&feature=related). Shadow the signer for a short clip. Then pause the video and resign it, using correct eye gaze.

3) Analyze the verbs on the chart below. Sign each verb as just one sign. Then act it out. Make up an English sentence that uses that verb. Translate it and use constructed action in the translation.

argue	drive	jump	open	shut	think
carry	drop	kick	paint	sing	threaten
celebrate	eat	kiss	perform	sleep	throw
clean	examine	knock	play	speak	touch
climb	fall	laugh	run	study	wash
count	fight	lead	scream	sweep	worry
cry	fold	leave	search	taste	work
cut	grab	listen	shake	teach	write

4) Film yourself interpreting "LIFE - Must-Watch Scenes" at <http://animal.discovery.com/videos/life-on-animal-planet> or other videos at www.animalplanet.com. Analyze your work to see where constructed action/dialogue was used effectively and where there were missed opportunities.