

Action Plan – English Production

Goal - Skill to improve:

Interpret using clear and intelligible English words and sentences

Source: ASL

Target: English

Related terms: pronunciation, volume, tone/pitch, pacing/pausing

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

- Did you have problems understanding exactly what the Deaf person signed in ASL? (comprehension)
- Was the source information unfamiliar to you? (background knowledge)
- Did you have a clear mental picture of what the Deaf person meant? (visualization)
- Did you know how to say what the Deaf person meant, using clear and effective English production? (reformulation)
- Did you think you used clear and effective English production, but you mistakenly did not? (monitoring)

Knowledge Resources:

- 1) Read this resource: pages 143-158 about public speaking in “Interpretation Skills: American Sign Language to English” by Marty M. Taylor, Ph.D. (available for purchase at <http://www.aslinterpreting.com>)
- 2) Read this resource from your center library: “ASL-to-English Interpretation: Say It Like They Mean It” by Jean E. Kelly, pages 103-107 (“How to Improve an ASL-to-English Interpretation”)

Activities:

- 1) Practice your public speaking skills by reading articles aloud from this website: www.life123.com. Record your voice and analyze your pronunciation, volume, tone/pitch, and pacing/pausing. While reading the articles, were you able to sound natural and credible? Why or why not? Occasional mistakes and corrections are unavoidable – how often did you need to start over? Why? How are these patterns similar to your ASL to English interpreting work?
- 2) While interpreting on the VRS floor, have the manager (or mentor, when appropriate) plug-in and concentrate specifically on your use of clear English production. The manager (or mentor) should mark instances of both unclear English production and effective use and subsequent consequences (negative and positive) in the call. Afterwards, attempt to find a pattern within the examples of unclear English production and possible root cause(s).
- 3) Film yourself consecutively interpreting “Around the News on January 4, 2011” at <http://www.deafnewspaper.com/news/2011/2011jan04.html> (or another text from www.deafnewspaper.com). Listen to the video without watching the Deaf signers. Transcribe your English interpretation and listen carefully to the pronunciation, volume, tone/pitch, and pacing/pausing. Did you make effective or ineffective choices? Why did this happen? Reinterpret the same text simultaneously and check for errors again.
- 4) Film yourself simultaneously interpreting “Type 2 Diabetes” at <http://www.deafmd.org/pub/topic/Diabetes-Mellitus-Type-2/Symptoms>. Analyze the best two minutes of your interpretation. Analyze the word order and sentences types. Did you make effective or ineffective choices? Why did this happen? Reinterpret the same text and check for errors again.