

A SIGN OF RESPECT: Strategies for Effective Deaf/Hearing Interactions

Instructors' Guide (To accompany Redesigned Workbook)

Congratulations on selecting a wonderful tool to help your students make their initial contacts in the Deaf community less intimidating. This interactive DVD/workbook set, **A Sign of Respect**, is designed for beginning ASL students as they prepare to attend their first Deaf community events.

HOW MUCH DOES THIS DVD/WORKBOOK SET COST?

The DVD/workbook set is FREE to instructors who decide to adopt the curriculum. We will send you a free copy to review for 60 days. After that time, if your bookstore orders a minimum of 10 copies for students to later purchase, the trial copy is yours to keep. Suggested retail price is \$24.95 for each DVD/workbook set. Contact Treehouse Video at asor@treehousevideo.com to apply for your free trial copy.

WHAT MAKES THIS DVD/WORKBOOK SET USEFUL FOR MY CLASSES?

We recognize the challenges of teaching culturally appropriate behaviors and other aspects of Deaf culture to beginning ASL students in a classroom setting without the use of interpreters.

A Sign of Respect is designed to facilitate the learning process between you and your students by providing hands-on activities and assignments. Everything your students will need is included in the DVD/workbook set:

- 1) Reading materials on the history of the Deaf community and the importance of attending Deaf events
- 2) Lectures in ASL and spoken English on Deaf culture and Deaf community involvement
- 3) Written assignments to be used as homework or class work
- 4) Interactive scenarios that pose common cultural challenges for novice ASL learners with answers provided in ASL and spoken English
- 5) Extra focus on selected grammatical features of ASL

IN WHICH CLASS SHOULD I USE THIS DVD/WORKBOOK SET?

There are two possible courses in which **A Sign of Respect** can help to enrich your curriculum. The DVD/WORKBOOK set was designed to supplement beginning ASL classes, as it provides students with the support and confidence they need to make attending their first Deaf community events a positive experience. **A Sign of Respect** could also be used effectively in a Deaf culture class as it provides opportunities for an in-depth analysis of culturally appropriate behavior in the Deaf community.

HOW DO I INTERGRATE THIS TEACHING TOOL INTO MY CURRICULUM?

A Sign of Respect includes a variety of assignments designed to help your students understand the nuances of Deaf culture. With 22 assignments, there are plenty of activities to keep your students engaged throughout the semester. You may choose the assignments you feel are the most appropriate for your class, ranging from reading about Deaf culture, to documenting their feelings about attending their first Deaf events, to practicing appropriate cultural behavior, to making Deaf friends. You may decide to require your students to submit their assignments so that you can respond to their concerns, feelings and experiences. For the assignments that you want submitted, ask your students to print out specific pages from their workbook included on their DVDs. As always, it is helpful to be clear about your expectations by specifying in your syllabus which assignments are due and when.

DO I HAVE TO USE ALL 22 ASSIGNMENTS IN THE DVD/WORKBOOK SET?

No. **A Sign of Respect** allows you to choose the assignments you feel are most appropriate for your students. You have full control over the selection of assignments that are most relevant to your course and the order in which you wish to explore them.

IS THERE AN ANSWER SHEET FOR THE ASSIGNMENTS?

A document with suggested answers to some of the questions is available to instructors. Send a request to asor@treehousevideo.com.

SHOULD I SHOW THE DVD IN THE CLASSROOM?

A Sign of Respect is self-contained and self-explanatory. For this reason, it is not necessary to show the DVD in the classroom. You may just request that your students to watch all of it or parts of it at home and complete the related assignments. For classes with interpreters, however, such as Deaf Culture, instructors may find it helpful to view selected scenes as a class activity to allow for in-depth discussions.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE DVD/WORKBOOK SET?

Besides the hour and a half long interactive DVD presentation, a 92-page workbook is included containing readings, written assignments, lectures, work sheets, along with a bonus section on ASL usage.

The reading materials cover the following topics:

- What are Deaf Events?
- The History of Deaf Events
- Why should ASL students attend Deaf events?
- A sampling of Deaf events in one community
- How to choose an appropriate Deaf event to attend
- Differences between types of Deaf events (e.g., public events that are ASL interpreted, Deaf events that are voice interpreted and Deaf events that are not interpreted)

The written assignments include:

- Personal Observations of Deaf people
- Past Experiences attending Deaf Events
- Deaf Events in your area
- Your feelings about attending Deaf events
- Having a Deaf teacher

The worksheets include topics such as:

- Comparing Deaf culture to your own ethnic/family customs
- Behaving in culturally appropriate ways that are respectful to Deaf people
- Successfully cultivating friendships with Deaf individuals
- Negotiating between the Deaf world and hearing world

The Interactive DVD presentation highlights:

- How to walk through a signed conversation
- How to inform others that you didn't understand what they signed
- How to provide appropriate back channel feedback
- How to volunteer your skills
- How to introduce yourself
- How to alert a Deaf person to noises in the environment
- How to be culturally sensitive
- How to handle "straight talk"
- How to get the attention of others
- How to use the video relay service

The lectures include:

- Making appropriate introductions
- Handling personal questions
- Accepting corrections to your signing errors
- Getting involved in the Deaf community
- Joining a signed conversation
- Giving directions
- Negotiating between the Deaf and the hearing worlds
- Handling "straight talk"

The Bonus ASL section includes more than 150 examples of:

- Listing
- Fingerspelling
- Repetition in ASL signing
- Back channel feedback

HOW IS THE REDESIGNED WORKBOOK DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL FORMAT?

In response to feedback from our customers, we have improved the workbook to meet your needs. Improvements include: better design for easier reading, individual pages for homework assignments to make them easier to submit, and improved consistency throughout the workbook. Since the number of pages has increased from 69 to 92, at the end of this document you will find a chart that makes clear where to find each assignment in the new redesigned workbook.

SINCE I HAVE MY OWN COPY OF THE DVD, CAN I MAKE HANDOUTS OF THE WORKBOOK ACTIVITIES AND DISTRIBUTE TO MY STUDENTS?

No, it is illegal to make copies of the workbook. We designed **A Sign of Respect** DVD/workbook set to be used by students individually. A huge investment of time, energy and money went into developing the product and it carries copyright protection. The cost of the product is intentionally kept low to make it affordable for your students.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Visit www.treehousevideo.com and follow the links to the **A Sign of Respect** page. Click on the links to contact us. Write your questions or comments there and we will respond to you shortly.

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