

In January of this year, another classmate and I were the team interpreters for the first subject matter expert version two presentations of this Spring 2023 semester. The students not assigned to team interpret or to the role of presenter, were either assigned to roleplay as a Deaf student or a hearing student for the duration of the presentation. The students who were designated to roleplay as Deaf were required to wear headphones with white noise audio playing to block out the sounds in the room. This required those students to rely on the interpretation and to only use American Sign Language to communicate. The hearing students and the presenter's role were to act as though they did not have any previous knowledge of American Sign Language and interpreting.

The topic for the presentation was Psychology. The presentation included an interactive activity with students paired into groups to take Rorschach Inkblot Tests online. My team interpreter and I used the rotate model for interpreting the presenter, where we would take turns roughly about ten minutes each where one of us actively interpreted while the other was not interpreting.

This experience was challenging as my team interpreter, and I did not know how to best rely on each other for feeds or to best support each other during the assignment. Despite these challenges we had spent time preparing for this assignment with pre-assignment controls such as preparation on the specialized content that we predicted could be discussed for the topic of Psychology. I learned in the post-assignment debriefing discussion more about better quality questions to ask the presenter as the interpreter and about how in the rotate model there is an opportunity to have the off-interpreter take notes of the source material to assist the interpreter who is actively interpreting.

In reflection on my experience, I think I tried my best to manage the demands presented as the team interpreter for this subject matter expert presentation on Psychology. I felt very overwhelmed during this presentation as the interpreter. The inkblots and the descriptions for them were difficult to interpret for me.

My areas for improvement for this assignment outweigh what I feel I did well. My fingerspelling and sign production were unclear. I could improve upon how my team interpreter and I cued each other during the assignment. My American Sign Language vocabulary needs to be expanded more for complex subjects and concepts.