

CLASSROOM SUCCESS

Communication Tips:

- Spell out technical words. It is helpful to have technical terms, or jargon, relating to a particular discipline or concept be spelled or written out, either on the whiteboard, an overhead projector, class handouts, or with some other visual aid.
- Speak at a reasonable pace. Interpreters normally interpret with a time lag of one or two sentences after the speaker because interpreters must first process the information before relaying it.
- When showing media, please make sure it is captioned or has subtitles.
- Maintain eye contact with the deaf person. If an interpreter is present, you may experience an urge to face and speak to the interpreter. Instead, speak directly to the Deaf person as you would a hearing person.
- If you are having difficulty getting an idea across, try to rephrase a thought or restate a sentence rather than repeating the same exact words.
- Use pantomime, body language, and facial expression to facilitate communication.
- Avoid standing in front of a light source such as a window. The bright background can make it impossible for the student to focus on the interpreter.

Group Situations and Meetings:

- Use visual aids. Where appropriate, use overhead projection, chalkboards/whiteboards, captioned films, diagrams, charts, and other visual media.
- **Remember that it is impossible for a deaf person to write and attend to the interpreter simultaneously.** Try to allow adequate time for watching and writing when giving directions that must be written.
- Making time for questions allows the interpreter to finish interpreting for the current speaker and enables the student who is deaf or hard of hearing to participate in class.
- Limit the class discussion to one person speaking at a time. This allows all students to have the opportunity to participate.