

WORKING WITH INTERPRETERS TIP SHEET

FOR TELEVISION SEGMENTS / INTERVIEWS

Are you a television journalist, camera operator, or editor working with a Deaf person on a television segment? Will ASL-English interpreters be present? Then this tip sheet is for you.

TOP TIPS

1. Be prepared to share your segment notes with the interpreting team so they can adequately prepare, especially for fast-paced shows. Rough drafts of notes is fine. Materials can include:
 - a. Script and monologue notes,
 - b. Prepared questions or topics list for the show,
 - c. Audio recorded materials, if using.
2. During the film editing process it is critical to ensure that the ASL is in frame and not cut-off midway through signing. It is important to both capture the full ASL message as originally rendered as well as the interpretation into spoken English. A cut-away from the ASL video while the spoken English interpretation is still being aired is not appropriate to ASL users who are watching the segment. [Here is a good article with more information.](#)
3. It is generally unnecessary for the interpreter(s) to be captured on screen. However, there are times when the set-up of the television segment means the interpreter(s) will be in frame. Often the Deaf person and the interpreter(s) will have experience with interpreted television segments appearances and can quickly provide insights on best practices.
4. Lighting that is not glaring or dim, and unobstructed sight lines are critical for a visual language and the interpreting process. The interpreter(s) will position themselves next to you for best sight lines.
5. Please look and speak directly to Deaf person in the first person and do not ask the interpreter to “tell him/her, ask him/her, etc.” Similarly the interpretation into English you hear will also be in the first person
6. You do not need to slow down your speech or break it into chunks; just speak normally. The interpreters are trained to interpret between two different languages distinct in their grammar and modality. This process does however take a brief processing time in order to simultaneously interpret the conversation. This means there will be short pauses during the conversation and in between speakers’ comments.
7. It is not necessary to acknowledge the interpreter(s), however if you would like to here is a preferred statement: “We are working with a/an ASL-English interpreter/s today who will be providing access in both American Sign Language and English.” If you would like discuss appropriate phrasing, please let the interpreter(s) know before the show begins.
8. Costs associated with professional fees of interpreting services will be negotiated by the SMU Faculty of Science staff interpreter at the time of booking.
9. Interpreters will not participate in the conversation taking place. Please do not directly engage the interpreter(s) while they are working. If you have comments, questions, or feedback for the interpreter(s) please wait until the segment is finished and then bring it to their attention. Interpreters are open to having debriefing discussions.

For more detailed information, please check out the SMU [Deaf Academics & Interpreters](#) webpages, specifically the [Work with an Interpreter](#) section.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the SMU Faculty of Science staff interpreter, Ashley Campbell at:

ashley.n.campbell@smu.ca or 902-496-8761