

## Tips on Working with a Signed Language Interpreter

Prepare in advance: provide the interpreter with as much information as possible beforehand. This can include the purpose of the meeting or class, the topic of discussion, any relevant materials or documents, and any specific vocabulary or terms that may come up.

Maintain enough light so the interpreter can still be seen. Use a small directional spotlight if you can.

Avoid personal conversations with the interpreter during the professional situation. They are working as a means of language transmission and not as a participant. If you need to communicate with your interpreter, you can direct message them in chat (if virtual) or set up a time before the meeting to discuss matters such as logistics.

When using visual aids or performing demonstrations, give the interpreter time to relay the message before calling attention to the slide or whiteboard. While this admittedly slows the presentation down, it does give deaf attendees more time to digest what's going on, ensuring all attendees are on the same page.

Only one person should be speaking when an interpreter is working, overlapping conversation cannot be interpreted effectively

It's a good idea to slow the pace at which you speak just a little. This will give the interpreter time to catch and translate every word you say.

Professional speakers develop their own speaking pace and patterns over time and it can be surprisingly hard to consciously alter this, but it will benefit your interpreter – and thus your audience – if you do.

Practice delivering your talk a little more slowly beforehand, so that you avoid falling back into the same rhythm as usual when it comes to delivering it live.

Relax. If you are unsure of the appropriate way to proceed in a particular situation, just ask. Conversing through an interpreter with a person who is deaf can be very comfortable. It is such a natural process you may find yourself forgetting that there is an interpreter.

<https://nagish.com/post/practices-for-working-with-asl-interpreter>

<https://www.edi.nih.gov/blog/communities/10-tips-for-working-with-a-sign-language-interpreter>

<https://www accreditedlanguage.com/interpreting/a-conference-guide-to-sign-language-interpreting/>

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.dccourts.gov/sites/default/files/divisionspdfs/Dos-and-Donts-When-Working-With-an-Interpreter.pdf&ved=2ahUKEwjgg5TVxrOJAxUMJTQIHWOBJkQFnoECEIQAw&usg=AOvVaw3tgsn0o5nCeJRTRnvXS78>

<https://speakerhub.com/skillcamp/top-5-tips-working-interpreter>