

DEAF INTERPRETER-HEARING INTERPRETER TEAMS

Instructor Guide **Student Activity: National/International Interpreting and/or Deafness-Related Conferences Settings**

The purpose of this activity sheet is to provide students with the opportunity to assess and justify the use of DI-HI teams. This Instructor Guide includes reading materials that provide a foundation for discussions, considerations, and responses to the Student Activity Guide.

Directions: When answering the following questions, be sure to consider various factors and provide justification for each of your answers.

Scenario:

Martha has been asked to interpret for the International Deaf History Conference that's schedule to take place in her hometown of Ontario Canada. She has been special requested to interpret a breakout session entitled, "The History of Interpreting in Canada." A colleague of hers who is also an interpreter will be the presenter for this session. Martha has been assisting her colleague in gathering data for the presentation so she is very familiar with the material that will be presented. Although the presenter is fluent in ASL and English, she has indicated that she will be using spoken English for this presentation.

Martha holds a Certificate of Interpretation (COI) from the Association of Visual Language Interpreters of Canada as well as a CSC, a CI and a CT from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She has been interpreting professionally both in Canada and the US for the last 20 years. Martha is comfortable using International Sign (IS).

Assessing the need for a DI-HI team

1) Would you recommend a DI-HI team for this conference session?

If yes, continue answering questions 2 – 6; if no, jump to question 7:

2. What about the consumers and their anticipated language use in this scenario would warrant the use of a DI-HI team?

ANSWER: At an international conference such as this, Deaf people from all over the world will be in attendance. Many of them are at minimum, native users of their home country's sign language, if not fluent in a number of signed languages of other countries. International Sign (IS) is commonly used at these international venues to bridge the communication gap between users of different signed languages. It's generally assumed that formal IS will be the used by the presenter/interpreter in order to ensure inclusion of as many participants as possible.

3. What about the interpreters' language competency present in this scenario would warrant the use of a DI-HI team?

ANSWER: Martha is certified by both the Canadian interpreting association (AVLIC) and RID verifying her ASL/English interpreting competency. Fluency as an ASL/English interpreter however, does not necessarily reflect an ability to use IS as an interpreter. Because formal IS is expected to be used in these kinds of conference sessions, Martha is not likely to possess the skills to provide an accurate interpretation without a DI working with her as a team.

4. What setting considerations are present in this scenario that would warrant the use of a DI-HI team?

ANSWER: Because this is an international conference it can be expected that presentations will be academic in nature and require an extensive knowledge and experience with IS in a formal setting. With the anticipated sign language variety of the audience members and their expectation of having access to formal academic IS, a DI would be better suited to meet this diverse language community gathered. In addition, because Martha has extensive background in this subject matter to be presented, she can greatly assist the DI teammate in preparing for their work together.

5. Using the CPC for justification, please explain your decision to secure a DI-HI team.

ANSWER: The RID Code of Professional Conduct requires interpreters to assess whether or not they possess the necessary skills required for the specific interpreting situation before accepting the work. The CPC also requires interpreters to request the support of a DI when necessary to fully convey an equivalent interpreted message. While the interpreter may be a highly qualified ASL/English interpreter, because they do not independently have the necessary skills for this setting they would be making an ethically sound decision to secure a DI.

6. Upon completion of your assessment and your determination of needing a DI-HI team, what information would you include to make your case to the requestor that a DI-HI team is necessary?

ANSWER:

Communication will be accurate and clear resulting in optimal understanding

Appropriate clarification of culturally based information will occur and will result in a reduced number of cultural misunderstandings that occur.

Potential gaps (e.g. informational, experiential, educational, visual, protocol, cognitive, memory, cultural, or frame of reference) relative to the particular interaction or setting will be identified in order to determine a target language/communication strategy consistent with the experiential and linguistic framework of the Deaf consumer and appropriate to situational protocol.

S/he can be less concerned about cultural misunderstandings knowing that the DI shares his/her culture. The DIs' mere presence will curtail a potential feeling of isolation.

The DI will apply his/her understanding and life experience of the history and significance of oppression in the Deaf community in analysis of power relationships among participants within the interpreted interaction in order to determine how the consumer's position within the power dynamic might influence interpreting decisions or strategies.

DI-HI Team will not be utilized

7. What about the consumers and their anticipated language use in this scenario led you to your decision not to recommend a DI-HI team?

ANSWER: N/A

8. What about the interpreters' language competency present in this scenario led you to your decision not to recommend a DI-HI team?

ANSWER: N/A

9. What setting considerations are present in this scenario led you to your decision not to recommend a DI-HI team?

ANSWER: N/A

10. Using the CPC for justification, please explain your decision to not secure a DI-HI team.

ANSWER: N/A

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