

**DEAF INTERPRETER-HEARING INTERPRETER TEAMS**

**Instructor Guide**  
**Student Activity: Public Events Settings #1**

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:**

A Deaf community leader has contacted Tim and asked him to interpret for the grand opening of the new Deaf Senior Citizen Housing Complex. Construction of this new Deaf Senior Center was just completed and the Deaf community and local public have been invited to celebrate the grand opening. Tim reviews the program for the event and sees the following speakers scheduled to speak:

Opening & Welcome: President of the Local Deaf Club  
Remarks: The Mayor of the City  
Remarks: CEO of Architectural Firm  
Remarks: NAD President  
Closing Remarks: President of the Local Deaf Club  
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Tim is a heritage signer, hearing CODA and holds a CSC, a CI and a CT. He has been interpreting professionally in this community for the last 15 years.

**Assessing the need for a DI-HI team**

1. Would you recommend a DI-HI team for this event?

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?

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**ANSWER:** With a large public event such as the one described, it can be anticipated that an event of this nature would draw a large audience from both the Deaf and hearing populations. Because DIs have had lifelong experiences and exposure to Deaf people with different language backgrounds they have been afforded opportunities to be exposed to and interact with individuals using countless variations and dialects of ASL. From this foundation of language variation and exposure, a DI would be able to recognize various linguistic factors and communication needs within the Deaf/hard of hearing crowd and tailor their interpretation accordingly.

In addition, because this event could be described as a “Deaf World” event, having a DI on stage for the hearing speakers can provide a sense of relatedness and connection for the Deaf attendees.

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

**ANSWER:** Although Tim is a CODA and a native user of ASL it is likely that he does not have a shared cultural experience of oppression or marginalization with the Deaf community. The celebration of the opening of a center for Deaf seniors represents a place where the dynamics of oppression are minimized and nearly non-existent. For that reason, the underlying significance of such an institution is particularly pertinent to people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. Having a DI on stage who shares common experiences with the audience adds significantly to the cultural mediation process.

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

**ANSWER:** Because this is a significant event in the local and national Deaf community, a DI-HI team would be well-suited to accommodate the needs of a large Deaf audience. The hearing speakers’ remarks are likely to be scripted and if so, provide for ease in the DI-HI team preparation process. Even without scripts, the DI-HI team can fairly easily predict the kinds of remarks a city official and architect might expect to share in this kind of forum. For this reason, this kind of public event easily lends itself to the work of a DI-HI team.

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.

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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:**

- a. Communication will be accurate and clear resulting in optimal understanding
- b. Appropriate clarification of culturally based information will occur and will result in a reduced number of cultural misunderstandings that occur.
- c. 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.
- d. 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.
- e. 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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