Category
ASL *cross reference ENG to ASL interpreting*
Activity Domain/Targeted skill area
Techniques of Emphasis in ASL – expanding the repertoire
Developed by
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Step-by-Step Description of Activity
Look at samples of mentee in natural ASL discourse and while interpreting for demonstration of techniques for emphasis - pausing, holding signs, eye gaze, repetition of sign string, fingerspelling. If when looking at natural language samples, few linguistic features for emphasis are observed then - . 1. Watch ASL texts and shadow native deaf signers and their uses of ASL Linguistic features used to show emphasis (pausing, holding signs, eye gaze, repetition of sign string, fingerspelling). 2. Retell the stories and videotape if possible to incorporate these features. Review the videotape and journal the amount of features successfully incorporated. 3. Videotape the telling of an original story in ASL and analyze for the amount, frequency, and type of emphasis features that are used. 4. When a level of comfort and success has been achieved with incorporating these features into ASL, move to Activity 2. Activity 2 – during interpreting task 1. Watch all English to ASL interpreting portfolio submissions and log on paper each ASL Linguistic feature used to show emphasis (pausing, holding signs, eye gaze, repetition of sign string, fingerspelling). Note the results of this analysis both for frequency and variety. 2. Interpreter (I) will identify 2-3 ASL texts to use for practice, and secure his own interpreting portfolio. 3. Interpreter commits to logging use of ASL linguistic feature to show emphasis (pausing, holding signs, eye gaze, repetition of sign string, fingerspelling). 4. Interpreter commits to practicing shadow interpreting the ASL text 30 minutes 3 times per week for the next 2 weeks. 5. After each practice session, Interpreter will log the features that created a problem with shadowing. 6. Interpreter will video record her/himself interpreting English to ASL once during the second week of practice. The interpreting session will be live. 7. Interpreter will view the video recording of her/his English to ASL interpretation and will log the use of ASL linguistic feature to show emphasis (pausing, holding signs, eye gaze, repetition of sign string, fingerspelling).

Materials

Portfolio of work and language samples
Journal
ASL texts
Technology to support video recording. Depending on which technology used, storage for work samples - DVD, thumbdrive etc

Marty Taylor's Books: Interpretation Skills: American Sign Language to English and Interpretation Skills: English to American Sign Language.

Suggested Timelines

1. Practice Activity 1 three times per week for 2 weeks, at least 30 minutes at a time.

2. Practice Activity 2 three times per week for 2 weeks, at least 30 minutes at a time.

Next Steps

1. Interpreter will report on the activity, progress and turn in the log.
2. Interpreter will determine the need to continue or move to the next step. The interpreter will use the information collected from the log and compare the data to find ifs/ he has sufficiently increased his/her ability to use a variety of ASL Linguistic features to show emphasis.

Progress Measurements

1. Interpreter will keep a log each ASL linguistic feature to show emphasis (pausing, holding signs, eye gaze, repetition of sign string, fingerspelling).
2. Interpreter will log, as appropriate, if these features begin to appear in his/her own interpreting.
3. We will meet in 2 weeks, on _____ at _____am/pm for one hour to review this activity.