



# Deaf Centered Interpreting: Who, what, where, when, how and why?

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# Today's plan

## Saturday, March 23, 2025

### "Set"

- ▶ Inner/Outer Circle
  - ▶ Morning Session (8:30 to Noon)
    - ▶ Spoken English to ASL
  - ▶ Afternoon Session (1:30 to 4:00)
    - ▶ ASL to Spoken English



# DEAM: Deaf Dream Team

## A win-win proposition



1. Access    2. Quality    3. Engagement



# Spoken English to ASL

## What are the issues?

Issue #1: Limited Understandability

Issue #2: Disengagement

## MAKING DEAM COME TRUE

- a. Accuracy vs. Understandability
- b. Main Point Interpreting
- c. Acts of confirmation
- d. Use of Rh?/Backchanneling

# Spoken English to ASL

## What are the issues?

Issue #1: Limited Understandability

Issue #2: Disengagement

### Circle #1: MAKING DEAM COME TRUE

#### a. ACCURACY VS. UNDERSTANDABILITY

- \* Stop defaulting to English Discourse Structure

#### b. MAIN POINT INTERPRETING

- \* Prioritize clarity over accuracy

#### c. ACTS OF CONFIRMATION

- \* Assume the role of confirming information per ASL Discourse structure as appropriate

#### d. USE OF RH?/BACKCHANNELING

- \* Follow more closely the conventions of ASL discourse structure

# Inner/Outer Circle: Groups of 20

## Why nots/Buts

1. 10 seated (inners)/10 standing (outers)
2. Tom introduces a DEAM approach to explore.
3. Inners do all the talking, focusing on “why nots” while outers stand and observe
  - a. Each person has one minute to share their thoughts.
  - b. Can pass if don't want to add to the conversation
4. After 10 minutes, the groups switch
  - a. Inners become outers/outers become inners focusing on “Buts”
5. After 10 minutes, debrief with the full group for 10 minutes.
6. After debriefing, one person will provide a summary to the large group.
  - a. Person reporting will be selected by Tom.
  - b. Person can decline and pass to someone else in the group to report

# Spoken English to ASL

## What are the issues?

Issue #1: Limited Understandability

Issue #2: Disengagement

## MAKING DEAM COME TRUE

### Circle #2

- a. Role of Team interpreters
- b. Rotation
- c. SSP



# Spoken English to ASL

## What are the issues?

Issue #1: Limited Understandability

Issue #2: Disengagement

## Circle #2: MAKING DEAM COME TRUE

a. Role of team interpreters

- \*Prioritize the deaf person over the interpreter in providing support

b. Rotation

- \*Rotate more effectively

c. SSP

- \*Guide the deaf person through complicated sessions



# Optimizing team interpreters' work to best support Deaf people

1. Typical Arrangement: 20-minute rotation
2. Modified Arrangement: Rotate by speakers
3. On/Off Arrangement: Completely off when not interpreting
4. Deaf-Focused Arrangement: SSP
5. Double Arrangement: Split Duty
6. Deaf-Centered Arrangement: Stronger interpreter as the primary interpreter

## 7. STOP THE 20 MINUTE MADNESS