Deaf Culture & Deaf Students in ESL Classes
Lighting is important
For lipreading & seeing the interpreter

“Read Aloud” exercises - have written segment projected on screen.

Closed Captioning on videos
Obviously No Two Deaf People are exactly alike.
10% of deaf children are born to Deaf Parents = L1
THE GREATEST IRONY:

DEAF BABY

HEARING BABY
90% are born to hearing parents
“... every spoken language is a foreign language to the Deaf. Because of lack of exposure to the spoken word, (most deaf babies are born into hearing families who do not know sign language), they face the first couple to several years with only gestural language and what words they can pick up on the lips as their language base. So, basically, they begin their L1 formative years with no language, but rather a hodgepodge of coping measures. “

Cathy Metcalf
East Tennessee State University | ETSU · Department of Disability Services
·
TESOL Certificate (Masters Level)
DEAF

HEARING

“I’LL TELL YOU LATER.”

NEVER TELLS YOU
For many when ASL is learned, that becomes their L2.
“By the time they get to the college level, written English is L3, they are set in their ways of writing in ASL mixed with a dose of English phrases and structure. It is difficult to get through college courses and to get jobs if one does not have decent written English and/or comprehension.” (Cathy Metcath)

“For this age group, I have found it best to increase exposure to the right way to produce English in written venues such as emailing back and forth, and using other students' writing as samples. The more exposure, the better.”
Don’t “sandwich” feedback
CULTURE

D vs d
Deaf vs deaf
Culture is not innate. It is learned.

Language  Traditions  Art  Norms  Values
American Sign Language = ASL

Native American Sign Language

Martha's Vineyard Sign Language

(Woodward 1978) Studied Language percentages

French Sign Language 58%

Other 42%

Other Influences 42.0%
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Individualist*</th>
<th>Collectivist†</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(typically reflect western ideals)</td>
<td>(typically reflect eastern ideals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>Socially interdependent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-reliant</td>
<td>Connected</td>
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<tr>
<td>Achievement orientated</td>
<td>Moderate/traditional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Competitive</td>
<td>Cooperative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assertive</td>
<td>Obedient</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pleasure seeking</td>
<td>Self-sacrificing</td>
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<td>Self-assured</td>
<td>Sensitive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Direct</td>
<td>Self-controlled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-interest</td>
<td>Equalitarian</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Those who identify with the Deaf Community

Collective Values show as:

Not using their voice- even if they have good articulation.

SHARING of information- Hearing might feel like they “over share”

Trust/rely of their experiences or of others in the community over facts/statistics
According to the Anxiety and Depression Association of America, 40 million adults experience anxiety disorders across the United States. Among those in the deaf population, the number of anxiety disorders is higher because of language barriers between the hearing population and the deaf. People who are hard of hearing or deaf cannot follow verbal conversations as quickly and often result to lip reading to attempt to keep up. When this fails, it can trigger embarrassment, anxiety, or depression, which can be lasting.

According to The Hearing Journal, anxiety triggers for the deaf and hard of hearing include:

- Entering an unknown office
- Meeting new people and struggling to hear
- Feeling concerned over cosmetic issues of hearing aids
- Realizing after hearing aid use that amplification does not solve all hearing difficulties
- Entering an unknown area
Recognize

Going back to school can trigger past trauma.

Seat preferences-
Missed classes
Late assignments

These are symptoms of stress/trauma
not a result of laziness, disinterest etc.
AGAIN- Obviously No Two Deaf People are exactly alike.
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increase exposure to the right way to produce (written) English

BE DIRECT

Your Deaf student might not have a strong L1 to build from

Going back to school could trigger past trauma. Assume Positive intent.