Northeastern University
Center for Atypical Language Interpreting

Student Handout — Using Language Sample Videos

Why Are We Watching These Videos?

These interviews show a wide range of real-world signing styles and communication patterns. The goal is **not perfection** — the goal is to build:

A. Receptive awareness
B. Comfort with variation
C. Reflection skills
D. Ethical decision-making habits

While You Watch — Notice

A. Movements and facial expressions
B. Repetition or pausing
C. Use of space
D. Emotional tone
E. What helps you understand

Ask Yourself

1. What did I understand clearly?
2. Where did I feel unsure?
3. What helped me stay engaged?
4. What surprised me?

If Understanding Feels Difficult

That is normal.

Try:

A. Watching again
B. Focusing on the overall message instead of each sign
C. Adjusting viewing conditions (lighting, screen size, seating)

D. Taking a short visual break

Think About Interaction

If you were communicating directly, what might help?

A. Repetition
B. Slower pacing
C. Clarifying questions
D. Pointing or visual referencing

Reflect

A. What assumptions did I notice?
B. What questions do I still have?
C. What did this experience teach me about my own comprehension?

Remember

A. Language variation is normal.
B. Partial understanding is part of learning.
C. Observation builds skill over time.
D. Respect and curiosity are more important than accuracy.

Your growth comes from noticing, reflecting, and staying open.

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