



Northeastern University

Center for Atypical Language Interpreting

Navigation Guide

Unit of Learning: Understanding the Deaf Immigrant Experience

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Welcome and Learning Objectives

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Sample Syllabus

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1. Watch: Unit Introduction

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2. Activity: Reflecting on our Assumptions

[Reflecting on our Assumptions](#)

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3. Activity: Taking a Closer Look at the Deaf Immigrant Experience

The five interviews below of Deaf immigrants represent a variety of emmigration experiences and challenges. Watch each interview and answer the corresponding thought questions to understand the challenges experienced by Deaf immigrants.

Senior Citizens

Deaf Korean Female 1: Kyong Suk Wight

[Interview Series- Video 1](#)

[Interview Series- Video 1 \(English Transcript\)](#)

Thought Questions:

1. Kyong recounts a serious medical emergency in her interview. What role does the immigrant challenge of language barriers have on her access to medical services? Public health campaigns on the symptoms of heart attack or stroke in women?
2. What resources did she rely on before, during and after this medical emergency?
3. What role does the community play in supporting Deaf immigrants?

Deaf Peruvian Male: Franklin E. Torres

[Interview Series- Video 2](#)

[Interview Series- Video 2 \(English Transcript\)](#)

Thought Questions:

1. Franklin describes attending his son's medical appointment following an accident. Detail how he was able to utilize interpreters in that situation. What characteristics does he use to describe his ideal interpreter?
2. What additional resources or strategies could be employed in the above situation?
3. Franklin later describes using interpreters at his work, FedEx. How has his use of interpreters changed at this point?

Under 50

Deaf Jordanian Male: Majdi Yaghi

[Interview Series- Video 3](#)

[Interview Series- Video 3 \(English Transcript\)](#)

Thought Questions:

1. What previous experience does Majdi have using interpreters in Jordan?
2. How did this experience impact his literacy?
3. What type of expectations does Majdi bring with him to the United States around the use of interpreters?
4. As an interpreter, what type of strategies would you use when working with Majdi?
5. As a community leader and activist, how does Majdi experience the immigrant challenge of language barriers?
6. How does the language barrier affect his employment opportunities? Where is Majdi able to find success in employment?

7. How do these challenges appear to impact Madji?

Deaf Korean Female 2: ShinAe Hwang

[Interview Series- Video 4](#)

[Interview Series- Video 4 \(English Transcript\)](#)

Thought Questions:

1. ShinAe describes her struggle to use ASL interpreters for an English class at a community college. Describe how the common challenge faced by immigrants, language barriers, is impacted by the use of interpreters.
2. What types of strategies could interpreters employ to overcome the language barrier challenge when working with Deaf immigrants?
3. How was ShinAe able to utilize her Korean language and cultural knowledge in overcoming the immigrant challenge of lack of employment opportunity?

Deaf Immigrant and Advocate

Deaf El Salvadorian Female: Norma Morán

[Interview Series- Video 5](#)

[Interview Series- Video 5 \(English Transcript\)](#)

Thought Questions:

1. As a formerly undocumented immigrant, what lived experience and knowledge does Norma bring to her work as a community advocate? How does she apply it to her work?
2. What type of cultural mediation does Norma include in her work as an advocate? Are these types of cultural mediations a tool interpreters could use in their work? Why or why not?
3. What role does community and advocates play in supporting Deaf immigrants?

4. Closing Note

[Closing Note](#)

[Closing Note \(English Transcript\)](#)