INTERPRETING IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Things I Learned...

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**IMPORTANCE OF PRE-SESSION**
Introducing myself, talking about my role as an interpreter and confidentiality, as well as explaining certain cues I might use (e.g., when speaker needs to slow down) for meetings to run smoother and feel more in control.

**ADVOCACY**
Remaining neutral but knowing when to advocate for parties involved when culturally based miscommunication issues arise. Self-advocating when unknown terms have been used, as well as when parties unintentionally start communicating or having side conversations without waiting for interpretation.

**ABBREVIATIONS**
Learning tons of abbreviations, but understanding there will always be more...learning abbreviations beforehand to help with more efficient note-taking as well.

**PRE-MEETING PREP**
Studying available documents, identifying terms that will be used, and coming up with symbols or abbreviations for note-taking to improve performance while interpreting.

**IMPORTANCE OF NETWORK**
Discussing challenging terms with colleagues or hearing how they solved tricky situations to reflect on one's performance and improve a little bit more every day.