

YWCA HISPANIC OUTREACH CENTER

INTERPRETER TRAINING
July 2005

Two Myths of Interpretation

- Being bilingual equals being an interpreter.....(NO)
- Family members make the best interpreters.....(NO)
- WHY NOT?

Skills and Qualities of Trained Interpreters

- Strong communication skills including, listening, oral comprehension and speaking skills.
- Short-term memory
- Cultural Awareness
- Ability to put aside personal beliefs (political, cultural and religious beliefs)



Modes of Interpretation

- Consecutive
- Simultaneous
- Sight Translation

Protocols

- Use of First Person
- Clarification as needed
- Fluidity
- Correction

Ineffective Interpretation

Common Types of Errors

- Omission
- Addition
- Substitution
- Sequence
- Paraphrasing
- Editorializing
- False Fluency

What is Culture

Culture is everything; some definitions for culture include:

- Culture is a group's way of life including language, clothing, food and religion.
- A common way of life of a group of people.
- A particular society at a particular time and place.
- The attitudes and behavior that are characteristic of a particular social group or organization.
- A set of learned beliefs, values and behaviors the way of life shared by the members of a society.
- Class give some examples!

Cultural Features

- Language
- Country and region of origin.
- Religious beliefs.
- Values.
- Everyday interacting with your environment.
- Adaptation to any and all the above.

Share and Discuss Experiences

Discussion

- What professional experiences have you had that were affected by culture or the inability to communicate directly?

Tips for interpreters

- Sentence-by sentence interpretation most times works best.
- Use simple language.
- Avoid slang and jargon.
- Speak slowly and clearly. Do not raise your voice or shout, unless the situation requires you to drive home a point from the OIC.

Tips for working with interpreters

- Allow extra time.
- Never use children as interpreters, (why?)
- Use trained interpreters whenever possible.

The End
Fin

Any Questions?