

WORKING WITH INTERPRETERS TIP SHEET

FOR RADIO SHOWS / INTERVIEWS

Are you a radio producer or host and working with a Deaf person on a radio show? Will ASL-English interpreters be present? Then this tip sheet is for you, as you will work closely with the interpreting team.

TOP TIPS

1. Be prepared to share your segment notes with the interpreting team so they can adequately prepare, especially for fast-paced shows. Rough drafts of notes are fine. Materials can include:
 - a. Script and monologue notes,
 - b. Prepared questions or topics list for the show,
 - c. Audio recorded materials if using.
2. If possible, please allow the interpreting team access to the broadcasting room a few minutes before the show to allow seating arrangements to be determined. Due to the visual nature of ASL, seating arrangements, interpreter access to the microphone, and clear sight lines among everyone are critical for participation, accessibility, and inclusion. Often the Deaf person and interpreter(s) will have experience from previous radio show appearances and can quickly provide insights on best seating arrangements.
3. Please look and speak directly to Deaf person in the first person and do not ask the interpreter to “tell him/her, ask him/her, etc.” Similarly the interpretation into English you hear will also be in the first person.
4. Costs associated with professional fees of interpreting services will be negotiated by the SMU Faculty of Science staff interpreter at the time of booking.
5. You do not need to slow down your speech or break it into chunks; just speak normally. The interpreters are trained to interpret between two different languages distinct in their grammar and modality. This process does however take a brief processing time in order to simultaneously interpret the conversation. To minimize these pauses, especially for live radio shows, two interpreters will work together as a team.
6. It is not necessary to acknowledge the interpreter(s), however if you would like to please do so once at the beginning of the show. A preferred acknowledgement statement is: “We are working with a/an ASL-English interpreter/s today who will be providing access in both languages.” If you have questions regarding appropriate phrasing please discuss them with the Deaf guest and interpreter(s) before the show begins.
7. Interpreters will not participate in the conversation taking place. Please do not directly engage the interpreter(s) while they are working. If you have comments, questions, or feedback for the interpreter(s) please wait until the show is finished and then bring it to their attention. Interpreters are open to having debriefing discussions.

For more detailed information, please check out the SMU [Deaf Academics & Interpreters](#) webpages, specifically the [Work with an Interpreter](#) section.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the SMU Faculty of Science staff interpreter, Ashley Campbell at:

ashley.n.campbell@smu.ca or 902-496-8761