

Skill Development Activity:
TEXT ANALYSIS EXERCISES OF NON-LEGAL TEXTS

You can use any ASL or English text to focus on analyzing the following aspects of the text. This multi-step process is based on a fairly standard approach to discourse analysis in interpreter training programs. Some of the steps have been modified, and others have been added.

Text Analysis Steps:

1. Think about the topic of the text - prior to viewing it entirely - and create a random list of all the pieces of information you already know about the topic.

This will help you to access your long-term memory and your world-knowledge base.

2. View the text as many times as necessary until you feel comfortable that you understand it.
3. Jot down a random list of all the concepts from the text that you can recall.

Compare the prediction list and the 87at you understand it.

This refers to those pieces of information that most people would not understand unless they were a member of the culture. For example, non-deaf people do not appreciate the importance of the deaf identity or the schools for the deaf as part of the deaf identity. Consequently, when deaf people talk about their experiences, they are not received with the same intent as deaf people receive them. So, work with the text and identify what concepts come up that would require cultural insight to appreciate. Then, consider how you would talk about the concepts in the target language.

8. Retell the text in the target language.

This means to tell the text in the language other than it originated in. You can adjust the content again by changing the setting/audience to whom you are telling the text. This is good practice for adapting meaning to the needs of the audience and for considering different registers (levels of formality) in the way you use language.

Practice until you feel comfortable with your retelling in the target language.

9. Practice interpreting the text simultaneously.

If possible, tape yourself interpreting the text and then create a transcription of the work. Compare the information in your transcription wi

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This series includes diverse ASL and English texts available for practice interpreting.