

# Real-Time Captioning In the Classroom

## Introduction

Students who are deaf or hard of hearing often require classroom accommodations so they can understand and learn the material presented. Some individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing prefer to use a Real-Time Captionist as opposed to writing, lip reading, or if the individual possesses residual hearing, possibly using a device to amplify sounds.

When real-time captioning is the preferred form of communication, the services of a Real-Time Captionist may be arranged for the student. This comes as a reasonable and useful classroom accommodation to help the student learn and understand course content. Therefore, it is important for both students who are deaf or hard of hearing, and instructors who teach these students, to know how to utilize the services of a Captionist effectively.



**Speak Directly to the Student** The Captionist is in the classroom to facilitate communication for the student. Speak directly to and maintain communication with the student. The Captionist may request clarification from you to ensure accuracy of the information conveyed.

**Spell Out Technical Words** It is helpful to have technical terms or jargon relating to a particular discipline or concept spelled or written out. Either on the board, an overhead projector, a class handout, or with some other visual aid.

**Speak at a Reasonable Pace** Captionists normally caption with a time lag of about a sentence after the speaker because Captionists must first process the information before relaying it. Speak naturally and at a modest pace. Keep in mind that a C

special grading scale or other criteria for them. Do not alter or water down your curriculum for that individual.

**Guided Notes on the Web** Providing students with guided notes that they can access through the Web prior to class can assist them with focusing on the appropriate material. It will help them to learn more effectively in the classroom as well as take better notes.

## **Collaboration**

Do not hesitate to call your DSPS office (Menifee ext. 5305 or San Jacinto ext. 3306) to arrange for a three-way meeting between you, the DSPS Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services Coordinator, and the student, to work out any issues and to collaborate on the best instructional strategies for the student.

## **Additional Resources**

Gallaudet University <http://www.gallaudet.edu>