Cultural Issues in Community Interpreting

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Introductions

☐ Denise
☐ Students

☐ My Experience with Community Interpreting
Culture or Ethics?

- Can you separate ‘Culture’ from skills, ethics, or communication?
- Using ‘Culture’ as an excuse
- Playing the ‘Deafness’ card
The Role of the Community Interpreter

- Why are you in this profession?
- Are the deaf and interpreting communities too hard on each other?
- Should interpreters mediate ‘culture’ as well as facilitate communication?
Assumptions

Communication Style
- ‘Big Picture’ – vs- ‘Small Picture’

Communication Preferences
- Not all deaf people prefer ASL
- Not all deaf people have limited English skills
- Not all deaf people need ‘clarification’ regarding idioms, slang, terminology
Assumptions

- Visual Learners
  - Are all deaf people really visual learners?

- Audism
  - Buzzword
  - Using new words to define old concepts
  - ‘Studying’ deaf people
Trends in Community Interpreting

- Impact of the ADA
- Higher expectations of interpreters
- Handling the feedback process
- Going beyond the ‘grateful’ stage
- ‘Biting the hand that feeds you’?
Working with the deaf professional

- Increase in # of deaf professionals brings new challenges to the interpreting community
- Role Reversals
- JADARA Article
My Experience Stories!