

Tips for teaching students who are deaf or hard of hearing: Overview of online learning challenges

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Resources on YorkSpace

Videos:

- Overview of online learning challenges
- Tips for making Zoom classes accessible
- Tips for using Zoom with a sign language interpreter
- Tips for adding captions to prerecorded materials
- Tips for using Zoom with automated captions
- DIY automated captions for students

Resources on YorkSpace

Handouts:

- Tips and resources for making Zoom classes accessible
- Tips and resources for using Zoom with a sign language interpreter
- Tips for adding captions to prerecorded materials
- Tips for using Zoom with automated captions
- DIY automated captions for students

“Deaf and hard of hearing” covers a wide spectrum of hearing losses and communication preferences

From students with mild hearing loss or hearing loss in only one ear who may or may not have hearing aids...

...to students with more severe hearing loss who using hearing technology and communicate only through spoken language...

“Deaf and hard of hearing” covers a wide spectrum of hearing losses and communication preferences

...to students with profound hearing loss who use cochlear implants and communicate only through spoken language

“Deaf and hard of hearing” covers a wide spectrum of hearing losses and communication preferences

...to students with any hearing loss who communicate using a combination of spoken language and sign language...

...to students who do not use hearing technology or spoken language and who communicate using only sign language

In today's school age population



- Students who use only sign language to communicate make up about 5% of all students with hearing loss
- About 95% of students with hearing loss use hearing technology and spoken language

In today's school age population



There are some commonalities in challenges for online learning, and some issues that are more specific to preferred communication modality

Online learning can be harder for students with hearing loss

The Conversation article on online learning for students with disabilities

Highlights:

- Online learning requires a high level of independent learning
- Far more text
- More difficult to ask for help
- More difficult for instructors to monitor comprehension

Online learning can be harder for students with hearing loss

- More reliance on text
- More reliance on email
- Materials may not be accessible

Online learning can be harder for students with hearing loss

Notetaking

- Ideally, notetaking involves taking notes during class
- This requires looking down, and not at the screen

Zoom classes can be both easier and harder for students with hearing loss

Easier:

- Lower background noise levels
- Can see all participants (assuming they have their cameras on)

Zoom classes can be both easier and harder for students with hearing loss

Easier:

- If the class is recorded, student can review later for anything that was missed
- Discussion/questions in the chat box can make it easier to follow and participate

Zoom classes can be harder for students with hearing loss

Harder:

- Audio quality can be poor or inconsistent
- Video quality can be poor or inconsistent
- Students are at the mercy of other participants' internet

Zoom classes can be harder for students with hearing loss

Harder:

- Difficult to lipread because video boxes are small
- Difficult to switch attention from shared materials to instructor/ participant video
- This is compounded when an ASL interpreter is being used

General tips for online learning

- “visual organization” is very helpful
- Visual backup/support is very helpful
- Clear audio and video quality is crucial
- Comprehension checks/ self-test activities are very helpful – “you don’t hear what you don’t hear”

General tips for online learning

- There is technology to interface hearing aids, cochlear implants, etc. with computers – this will be covered for students in a separate handout, but students can be encouraged to check with their clinical audiologist for options if they are having trouble hearing
- Ask the student where their challenges lie, and if they have suggestions for strategies that have helped in the past

Questions?

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