

# H & H PUBLISHING



## WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS FOR WILLIAM F. ROSS III, M.S., CI/CT

### **Incorporating Expansion Techniques in Your Interpreting**

The language differences in American Sign Language and spoken English require that interpreters employ various expansion and compression techniques to achieve message equivalency. Expansion techniques are used when interpreting from English to American Sign Language; the goal is to make implicit information in the source language more explicit in the target language. If interpreters are unfamiliar with expansion techniques, the resulting work will demonstrate unnatural phrasing, incorrect grammatical structures, and errors in production. The goal of this workshop is to expose interpreters to various expansion techniques and apply, through practice 3-4, specified techniques found in American Sign Language. [Offered with either educational or community focus-select one]

### **Expansion Techniques: Scaffolding our Space**

American Sign Language and spoken English are very different languages and to achieve message equivalency interpreters must incorporate expansion techniques into their interpretation. The seven recognized expansion techniques are: Contrasting, Faceting, Reiteration, Utilizing 3D Space, Explaining by Example, Couching or Scaffolding, and Describe then Do. The goal of expansion techniques is to improve **clarity** – they are used in order to make implicit information in the source language more explicit in the target language. In this workshop we will unpack all of the expansion techniques, but we will focus our energy on utilizing 3D space, which is invariably coupled with classifiers. If interpreters are unfamiliar with expansion techniques, the resulting work will demonstrate unnatural phrasing, incorrect grammatical structures, and errors in production. During this workshop interpreters will be exposed to all of the expansion techniques, yet we will focus our energy on correctly using **classifiers, 3D space** and **scaffolding** all found in the accurate use of American Sign Language.

### **Am I Seeing It Right, but Saying It Wrong?**

Providing a voiced interpretation for a Deaf presenter has some unique challenges. Suppose they open their

story saying there are three generations of Deafness in their family, or maybe they discuss their oral education, and later explain that they learned ASL at a residential school and finally ending their story as a mainstreamed student – what do we say? Research shows that uninitiated (hearing) people do not attached the same meaning to terms that we have come to use so freely when we are interpreting. When we inadvertently incorporate jargon, subject specific vocabulary and culturally rich terms in our interpretation we actually create distance between speaker and attendees. This workshop will provide interpreters ways to manage deaf-centric terminology, thus helping interpreters to render a more comprehensible interpretation. Attention will be given to techniques that aid in developing greater receptive ability. Additional topics: vocabulary/register, recognizing numbers/fingerspelling, regional sign production, and semantically rich signs. [Participants will have an opportunity to utilize a voice interpreting matrix in small groups]

### **Avoiding the Rabbit Trail**

*“When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less.”-Lewis Carol, author of Alice in Wonderland.* How many times have you been interpreting and you feel as though you are chasing meaning or maybe you are simply signing what is being said? Our desire is to offer an interpretation that is beyond the surface structure of language. This workshop hopes to conquer those concerns by employing **Socratic Circles** to take message analysis to a deeper level. We will work to convey abstract concepts in meaningful ways that lend to message equivalency, not solely message accuracy; thus, encouraging us to become more sensitive to meta-messages, inference/implication and other vague language forms. Participants will practice managing figurative and arbitrary language, which are often used to subtly shift meaning. Each of these language features complicates the work we do as interpreters. This *advanced workshop* will focus on the skills needed to enhance deep language processing and determine the genuine meaning of the speaker's message as we seek liberty through knowledge.

### **Connecting the Dots with Cohesive Devices**

Have you ever felt like you couldn't "connect the dots" while you were interpreting? Rather than producing a clear and cohesive interpretation all that was rendered was a list of facts, ideas and sentences. One of the most important elements to an articulate message is the inclusion of cohesive devices. Cohesive devices, also known as discourse markers, are elements that make overt connections between thoughts, ideas and concepts. Linguistic cohesion helps a listener determine the relationship between sentences, enabling them to predict what is coming, and to make sense of what was said. The research concerning message cohesion indicates that practitioners often create interpretations lacking cohesion; this is evidenced in the work of both spoken and sign language interpreters. This workshop will address cohesive devices, their function, and will allow ample time to practice incorporating them into our work.

### **Discourse Analysis -WHAT?**

Discourse analysis takes the high-speed work we do as interpreters and slows it down; furthermore, the message is divided into ten manageable and identifiable parts. This workshop will work from spoken English into American Sign Language. Utilizing a brief video recording (under four minutes), participants will walk through the work of interpreting giving consideration to some of the obvious parts of interpreting, as well as, some of the more subtle and complex aspects of the work. Based on the work of Anna Witter-Merithew, this training will address the identification and development of critical interpreting features such as: Content mapping, salient linguistic features in both the target/source language and visualization mapping. This training is hands on, allowing participants time to practice and discuss each step along the journey of discourse analysis.

### **Being Comfortable in the Uncomfortable**

Sign Language interpreting is not a profession for those who are uncomfortable with change. Interpreting is an ever-developing field that requires its practitioners to change, adapt, and grow. Often, the issue is not the lack of desire to change, rather it is creating **lasting change**. How do we, as interpreters, know what we should be changing; what should we keep, tweak or trash? How can we improve our work in ways that are identifiable and visible? In this training we will utilize some proven tools to

create genuine change. Collectively, we will identify potential areas of growth, then individually we will draft SMART goals. In addition, we will employ deliberate practice through focused interpreting as we work to transform our current skill set. Specific areas that participants will have an opportunity to address are voice interpreting, semantic intent, expansion techniques, and developing realistic and tangible goals.

### **Mixed-up Genres**

American Sign Language and English handle various language features differently. Differences can be seen in the use of pluralization and constructed dialogues (role shifting). This workshop proposes that the difference in *discourse genre* should also be managed differently when we are interpreting. Where does register end and genre begin? We use varying styles or forms of register and discourse when communicating – some factors that influence register and genre are the goal of the speaker, social context, and audience to name a few. To communicate more effectively and clearly, speakers often make changes in their discourse type (or genre). Some examples of discourse are narratives, persuasive arguments, procedural information and anecdotal comments; we use these styles every day during our dialogues. This training will identify several discourse types and will identify differing methods that sign language interpreters can utilize to manage those difference in their interpretation.

### **Developing Receptive Skills**

Improving visual receptive language skills among sign language interpreters is the focus of this training. Many interpreters for the Deaf today acquire American Sign Language as a second language. Receptive skills and voice interpreting are separate skills, yet both are needed to render an accurate interpretation (each will be addressed using a variety of stimulus materials). Attention will be given to various techniques that aid in developing greater receptive ability thus providing interpreters with the tools needed to address areas of concern. Some topics addressed: Sign-word pairs, contextual clues, deaf-centric terms, numeric recognition, fingerspelling, regional signs, and techniques used to elicit repetition from Deaf speakers.

### **The Three R's – Real Reputation Restoration**

In the field of interpreting a solid reputation is invaluable. We know that our reputation is built over our lifetime, but can be destroyed in a moment. The

purpose of this workshop is twofold: To help repair damaged reputations and come alongside others to help restore their reputation. Many of us have done things in our past that we regret; some of those things have damaged our reputation – maybe as an interpreter or maybe as a person. One goal of this workshop is to present practical tips and techniques to restore a damaged relationship/reputation. In addition, those with a solid reputation may want to give back by helping to repair the damaged reputations of those around us. We can come alongside others in need of reputation repair; this workshop will provide tools to get them back on the road to success by owning the past and paving a new future.

### **The Meaning of Meaning: Etymology & Semantics**

For a language to survive it must be alive, growing and changing. As interpreters, we need to be aware of those language changes; both in English and American Sign Language. This workshop will examine ASL and the relationship between etymology and semantics as both address meaning. Etymology tends to look backwards at the original meaning of the signs whereas semantics typically tends to focus on the current meaning of signs or concepts ascribed by a community. We will engage in discussion about semantically rich signs, which are used and understood by native users of a language. However, the intended meaning of such signs is often figurative in nature; therefore our comprehension cannot depend on the literal or accepted production of such signs. While exploring the content of this training we will consider the potential impact on our work as sign language interpreters.

### **Transliterating-Interpreting: What's the Difference?**

What is the difference between interpreting and transliterating-do we know? Most of us would answer, 'yes' since we have a general understanding of the principles of interpreting and transliterating (coding). However, in practice, the act of analyzing our consumers' language preference and providing a signed message, whether interpreted or transliterated, in an equivalent manner may not come as easily. This workshop is designed to offer an explanation by providing a practical comparisons (and models); the challenges of transliteration (coding) will be discussed. The major aspects of each, interpreting and transliterating, will be clearly defined, thereafter, opportunities will be provided for participants to put into practice what knowledge they have gained by way of hands-on practice activities.

### **Interpreting what they Mean, Not what they Say**

Very often interpreters feel bound to the English words, and find it difficult or daunting to **drop the form** of the words and determine the actual intent, meaning, or concept of the message. To accurately interpret from **English into American Sign Language**, we must focus on meaning and not necessarily the words we hear. We must understand the meaning of the message we are hearing to be able to clearly express it in the target language. This workshop will focus on some of the most vital aspects of the process of interpreting. This includes, hearing the message to analyze for meaning, formulate the message and finally produce an equivalent message in ASL. When do we *retain form* instead of *releasing form* and still preserve meaning of the message? Can we convey abstract concepts in a meaningful way that lends to message equivalency, not solely message accuracy? Utilizing practice time this workshop will answer these questions and more.

### **Living in the In-Between: Children of Deaf Adults**

Hearing children of Deaf parents often find themselves moving between worlds. Frequently growing up in a society that is culturally and linguistically different than that of their home. Their ability to hear puts them in a unique position; that of a native, but not a member of the Deaf community. Ironically, these natives do not always gain mastery of the culture or language used by the majority culture...they grow up in-between worlds. The children who experience this phenomenon are referred to third culture kids as children raised in a culture other than their parents' or the culture of another "country" for a significant part of their early years. Are they bicultural and bilingual – sometimes, but not always. How do they identify themselves...as hearing, as Deaf or CODA? Come to this facilitated forum to discuss, to share, and to understand that one size does not fit all!

### **Team Interpreting...There's No 'I' in Team**

As interpreters, we are often placed in settings that are physically and mentally demanding, thus we rely upon our colleague. It is critical for each interpreter to be a team player; we must be a supportive colleague while working. The professional courtesies of trust, humility and respect (to name a few) will be addressed. The way in which we handle responsibilities, communication, and environment management will be considered before and after an assignment. This training will also discuss: the "Open

Process,” the process of team interpreting, dysfluency, logistics and rapport. Lastly, providing appropriate feedback in an objective, work focused, impartial manner will be presented, modeled and practiced.

### **Presenter under Construction**

This workshop is relevant to **anyone**, Deaf or hearing, who has thought about becoming a presenter. The material offered in this training provides a framework for those who want to develop and offer workshops. Individuals interested in presenting often struggle with feeling of insecurity, nervousness or they just don't know where to begin. Often budding presenters possess the knowledge and skills but need a place to “pull it altogether.” This workshop will offer the ideas, tools and the practice needed to begin developing workshops on their own. Many pragmatics of workshop development will be discussed such as attire, appropriate use of PowerPoint (PPT), teaching strategies (bulleted listed, scripts, PPT notes), co-presentation, research and creating beneficial hands on activities. Potential training topics will be suggested. There will be time for application of the skills acquired at which time each participant will have the opportunity to develop a brief, but relevant training; the participants will also have time to write (tweak) their biography, workshop description or begin developing their own training. **[Participants should bring a laptop (with USB port) and, if available, their most current bio and ideas for a tentative workshop including a description; presenter will provide participants with the PowerPoints for 2 different workshops]**

### **The Practical Side of Interpreting: Resumes, Invoices, Branding & Interview Questions**

Representing ourselves on paper in a professional and practical manner is an important part of our work - though not often given adequate consideration. This workshop will address how to showcase your interpreting skills in the most practical ways. Attention will be given to designing resumes, invoices, logo images and compiling all the data into a DVD/flash drive portfolio. Guidelines as to how to make each document appear professional, functional and easy to send in electronic format, as well as current trends and language regarding each will be presented and discussed. Work samples will be provided along with tips on ways to answer interview questions will be discussed and modeled. An excellent workshop for anyone, but especially for new or soon to graduate interpreters! Participants will

have time to draft their profile, biography or preliminary resume. **[Participants should bring a laptop and, if available, their most current resume]**

### **Interpreting - The Dark Side**

The interpreting profession has a sense of camaraderie unlike many other professions. As part of a human services profession we have the honor and privilege of being present at some of the most sacred moments in the lives of Deaf people. Yet, in spite of all this goodness, there is a darker, less desirable side to our profession. Some of the dark marks on our profession are lateral (or horizontal) violence, the absence of grace and compassion for our colleagues, and personal/professional comparisons. These are just a few of the “weeds” growing in the field of interpreting, however, it does not have to remain this way. This workshop will address being agents of change, deliberately building goodwill, and additional strategies to become undivided, whole practitioners for our own benefit and for the benefit of the people we serve.

### **MENTORSHIP/MENTORING**

#### **The Art of Mentoring**

Mentoring is an essential tool for the interpreting profession. This workshop will address some of the current styles or models of mentoring relationships. Many practicing interpreters in the field identify their need for a mentor to further develop their current skills set. The role of the mentor and “apprentice” (mentee) in each will also be discussed. Terminology used to provide depersonalized feedback and encourage growth will be discussed, modeled and practiced along with a brief overview of the history of mentoring. Rather than exclusively adhering to one model of mentoring an eclectic approach to mentoring will be strongly advocated. There will be time to practice giving/receiving depersonalized feedback, listen to the apprentice express themselves utilizing self-directed approach and observe the mentor employ the guided approach; thus blending the best of the various mentoring approaches.

#### **Mentoring: Do unto Others**

Religious or church interpreting is very challenging, however, church interpreters are often dismissed and underappreciated, because they practice their craft in church. Ongoing skill development is a must and mentoring can aid interpreters in gaining knowledge, skills and a valuable schema to manage the complex language and traditions of the church. The goal of this

training is two-fold: develop respectful mentoring practices and to assist in the management of the unique language of the church. Attendees will practice building mentoring relationships by utilizing language that is work-centered, rather than person-centered. Participants will be exposed to worship music, overgeneralized religious terminology, and frozen texts as a way to initiate, develop and hone mentoring relationships. This workshop will be taught primarily from the Protestant perspective.

#### **Our Choice of Words: The Art of Feedback**

Terms prevalent in the field of interpreting are: deliberate practice, mentoring and professional development. Observation and feedback are integral to the application of those words. Collaborating with our colleagues affords us the opportunity to improve our skills, yet we are often protective and sensitive to the feedback offered regarding our work. Thus, mastering the skill of offering depersonalized feedback is critical for trust-building, fostering support, and open communication. Our choice of words can encourage or discourage interpreters; therefore, utilizing specific terms and phrases enable feedback to be received more positively. Often it is not **what** we say, but **how** we say it that unintentionally causes discomfort among working professionals. Participants will be provided an opportunity to interpret (English to ASL) then practice offering impartial depersonalized feedback using terminology introduced during the training. **[The above two workshops can be offered together or separately]**

#### **Teaming and Support: Feedback on Assignment**

It is critical for colleagues to have the ability to work together as members of a team while interpreting. Observation and feedback are important elements of collaborative teamwork. Mastering the skill of depersonalizing feedback is critical for trust building, support, and open communication. Since we are often placed settings that are both physically and cognitively demanding we must be able to rely upon our colleague for support. The words we choose when providing support and feedback to our colleagues can encourage or discourage them; therefore utilizing specific terms and phrases lends to the feedback being expressed and received in a more work focused manner. This training will address team interpreting, positive regard, trust as a professional courtesy and utilizing the open model of interpreting. Participants will be provided an opportunity to expressively interpret then provide observational

commentary using the concepts and language of the workshop.

#### **Show and Tell: Observational Feedback**

When we collaborate with our colleagues, we are afforded a rare and meaningful opportunity to improve our skills; yet we are often protective and sensitive about our work. Providing and receiving observation-based feedback is one way to foster personal and professional development. This training is about growth - identifying areas in our work, both specific and global, that may impact the quality of our interpreting. The general workshop is approximately 60-90 minutes, followed by individual observation sessions and feedback regarding the requisite skills needed to provide an accurate and equivalent interpretation. Participants will be provided an opportunity to interpret (English to ASL) then they will receive feedback using terminology introduced during the training.

#### **ETHICS/POWER & PRIVILEGE**

##### **Ethics and Justice in a Fragmented World: Principles for Interpreters**

Interpreters often face expectation that are daunting. Sometime the least difficult task is the work of interpreting from one language into another. This ethical workshop will address how biblical and Social Justice intersects with the Deaf and interpreting communities and how this principle is utilized on a daily basis. Biblical Justice will be defined and the participants will be equipped (via ethical scenarios) with the necessary information to make and defend valid decisions. Various components of the interpreting profession will be discussed and how the interpreting profession must uphold common values such as language, mutual respect, trust and Faith. Consideration will be given to human rights and the Code of Professional Conduct in light of biblical Justice. Thus, enabling the interpreter to embrace the principles of justice and demonstrate professionalism, impartiality and equity within the Deaf community. **[This workshop meets the RID requirement for ethics, power and privilege]**

##### **Ethics – Where Do I Stand?**

Do you ever feel like making an ethical decision is a little bit like walking through a minefield? We often wonder if we have a responsibility to “let-go” of our personal beliefs when we work as an interpreter. This workshop will help us identify the **criteria** that determine whether a genuine conflict exists. Each

participant will consider ways to guide their individual decision-making process. It is important to recognize that our personal beliefs and values do make a difference when we encounter ethical dilemmas. Yet, many of us have been left wondering if the decisions we made were right or wrong; good or bad. We will recognize what it means to hold a **sacred trust** as professionals and how we maintain that trust. Throughout the training we will examine and discuss ethical scenarios, these open discussions will help us determine how prevent ethical explosions from rocking our world! **[For those states/regions that require ethical training this workshop fulfills that requirement]**

#### **Defy the Status Quo: Examining Our Aging Ethics**

Each sign language interpreter has a role and accompanying responsibilities that are all encompassing; linguistic, logistic, behavioral and relational (to name a few). Every decision we make is loaded with ethical implications that can impact the life and liberty of members of the Deaf community. But, have you ever stopped to consider WHY you make the decisions you do? We are clearly influenced by multiple factors, some of which are, the laws of the legal system, the Code of Professional Conduct, and individual workplace policies and procedures. However, this workshop proposes, the historic values of our profession hold sway over our belief system and subsequently our behavior. The antiquated values of neutrality, invisibility, secrecy and the overemphasis on role continue to influence practitioners, both new and old alike. It is vital that we understand the depth of these rooted values and our profession's drive to maintain the status quo. Together, we will examine and discuss why we lean in one "ethical direction" instead of another and its impact on community trust. Consideration will be given to relational autonomy and the conditions that foster transparent decision-making by interpreters and the other individuals involved in the interpreting process. **[For those states/regions that require ethical training this workshop fulfills that requirement]**

#### **Ethical Brave Spaces**

Interpreters will engage in professional roundtable discussions regarding ethical decision making and how this relates to their individual work environments. Participants will come prepared to discuss various ethical scenarios and asked to analyze the ethical dilemma(s) in light of the 'brave space' ideology. Allowing for a respectful freedom to express

thoughts and ideas participants will consider the degree to which they present themselves in their interpreting assignments (this language is reflective of role space by Llewellyn-Jones, Peter and Lee, Robert). Choices will be discussed, and the RID Code of Professional Conduct will be reviewed and considered while guiding quality decision-making. Personal experiences and decisions will also be reviewed and discussed. **[For those states/regions that require ethical training this workshop fulfills that requirement]**

#### **RELIGIOUS**

##### **Interpreting for God and You Thought Legal was Hard**

Religious or church interpreting is one of the most challenging settings for interpreters. Though frequently minimized, the complex and varied nature of the religious setting requires the interpreter to be competent in navigating all styles of linguistic register. Many of the components of church or religious settings involve challenging language features such as frozen/archaic texts, figurative and metaphoric language, and the atypical expression of information through songs/hymns, prayers, sermons, and Scripture. Religious terminology is richly layered and often carries multiple meanings as well being habitually over generalized. Participants will discuss their individual religious lexicons and how differing denomination influence sign language choices. During this workshop, the participants will have the opportunity to conceptually interpret religious terminology (i.e., light, grace, bless) into ASL and also how to interpret scriptural passages. [This workshop is taught primarily from the Protestant perspective]

##### **Music that is Seen: A Spiritual Interpretation**

The focus of this workshop is about the interpreter bringing a meaningful and spiritual interpretation to a variety of today's religious music, including: hymns, contemporary songs, and choruses. A brief overview of the function and role of the religious interpreter will be discussed. Consideration will be given to the spiritual meaning and message of a variety of songs. Making worship music and special songs a spiritual experience for the Deaf community is challenging for any interpreter who chooses to interpret in the religious setting. Literal and meaning based interpretations of traditional musical pieces will be examined and the possible implications. Time will be provided or participants to practice selected musical

selections. **[The above two workshops can be offered together or separately]**

### **Songs, Sermons and Scripture – Church is a Challenge!**

This workshop will address interpreting in the church, one of the most challenging and complex environments for many sign language interpreters. Multiple elements that are typically reserved for the church; prayer, special songs, cantatas lend to its unique challenges. Furthermore, sermons and Scripture frequently cross various types of genre (i.e., narrative, persuasive arguments, procedural information and anecdotal comments) while also moving through several styles of linguistic register. Our desire is to be able to manage both register and genre while addressing the unique language of the church. We know sermons can contain difficult linguistic features such as archaic texts, allegories, metaphors and moving expressions of adoration, worship and exaltation. Finally, this workshop is a perfect place to practice the atypical delivery of spiritual content through songs, hymns, homilies, and passages of Scripture. [This workshop is taught primarily from the Christian/Protestant perspective]

### **THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS ARE BEST TAUGHT IN 2-4 HOURS**

#### **He Said, She Said**

This workshop will highlight the differences between how discourse is handled in English and American Sign Language; **an oft cited concern in interpreters.** English typically uses reported speech to describe an interaction between individuals; which is often conveyed in past tense. However, American Sign Language constructs a dialogue and utilizes characterization and present tense features to achieve the same goal. It is critical for interpreters to work between these two linguistic styles/features to provide a clear interpretation. The interpreter must be aware that individuals are distinguished by body/role shift, changes in eye gaze, location or placement of signs, and differing demeanor. Examples in both English and sign language will be provided as well as ample opportunity for practice and application of skills.

#### **Mastery over Meaning**

This workshop will address the very heart of interpreting: Meaning. How do we manage the finer shades of meaning, address subtleties found in language and express the unspoken? As interpreters,

we determine meaning through a combination of factors such as context, intonation, intent, setting, and other linguistic features. To accurately interpret we must look past the individual words to determine the intended meaning of the speaker. Sometimes our understanding and knowledge of semantic meaning in our first language does not always translate into the ability to render an accurate interpretation in our second language. Often what remains unspoken communicates important ideas, themes and feelings. Two significant methods used to express the unspoken are implication and inference; we are left to determine meaning when words are not used. This training focuses on our interpretation from English to American Sign Language and how to gain mastery over meaning.

#### **Interpreting Like Deaf People Talk**

This workshop will address features that occur naturally in American Sign Language; features that may not be present in the language of second language learners. The goal of our interpreting is to use language that is most readily understood by all participants. In light of this, we must strive to adapt our interpretations and language usage so that it resembles that of native and natural users of the language. If we wish for our interpretation to be accessible to Deaf people - ASL features such as non-manual markers, cohesive devices, classifiers, ASL syntax/grammar, expansion techniques, along with other features, must be incorporated into our language and subsequently our interpretations. This workshop will introduce various ASL features with opportunity to practice incorporating such features into our work and language. **[OPTIONAL: This workshop provides participants an opportunity to practice incorporating 2-3 expansion techniques into their language.]**

### **THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS ARE BEST OFFERED OVER TWO DAYS (Though they can be conducted in 6-8 hours)**

#### **Making of a Master**

This workshop will focus on the interpreters' message management skills, their fluency with English and American Sign Language, and their capacity to manage language as it relates to linguistic register. For an interpretation to be effective, the audience must be able to comprehend what is being conveyed by the speaker. When interpreting from English to ASL, we must demonstrate fluency in both of our working languages. This requires a grasp on the styles

of register and the ability to move comfortably through each style of register as needed. We must bring to bear all our skills, knowledge and experience in our first language (L1) to build, develop, and strengthen our second language (L2). This workshop will provide multiple opportunities to work and play with English and ASL to become more accustomed to the different levels of register and to appropriately interpret material making the message accessible. Printed materials will allow interpreters to work on **intra-lingual** skills by rewriting scripts while audio stimulus will allow for practice of **inter-lingual** skills by participants.

#### **THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOPS ARE PRIMARILY TO ASL INSTRUCTORS**

##### **Including Expansion Techniques in Your Instruction**

Expansion techniques are naturally occurring linguistic features used by native signers of American Sign Language; as such they should be incorporated into ASL instruction. This workshop clarifies that these techniques, often thought to have been developed by interpreters, are actually a vital part of ASL. Due to the language differences in American Sign Language and spoken English expansion techniques must be utilized to make implicit information more explicit, and to clarify the goal or intent of the message. Adequate instruction in expansion techniques helps signers/interpreters develop ASL skills that demonstrate natural phrasing, correct grammatical structures, and limit errors in production. The goal of this workshop is to expose sign language instructors to the various expansion techniques and encourage them to incorporate this necessary instruction into their ASL classes.

##### **Knowing Your Language: Areas of Growth & Strength**

Our ability to communicate effectively is only as good as our language. We need to know if our overall language production is clear and accurate. Taking a critical look at our language is a necessary part of authentic self-assessment. Members of the

interpreting community need to assess their working languages and determine their degree of bilingual competency. American Sign Language has been studied and recognized as a world and heritage language with definitive linguistic features. This training will utilize several linguistic tool(s) recognized by National Council of State Supervisors for Languages (NCSFSL) and other fields of research to outline levels of language proficiency. This user-friendly tool is comprehensible and built on a series of "I can..." statements. Once completed, this self-assessment guides individual professional development planning. This training promotes the utilization of deliberate practice to shape, improve and strengthen our language and work.

#### **THE FOLLOWING WORKSHOP IS CO-PRESENTED ONLY**

##### **Black and White in a Beige World**

Today diversity is talked about in many circles, both public and private. The interpreting profession is also grappling with the many ideas and beliefs bound up in the concept of diversity. This workshop will primarily address people of color and how to increase opportunities for diversity in our personal lives, the interpreting profession and within interpreting training programs. Also addressed will be creating a lively environment where people of different skin colors can intersect with genuine respect, creating an environment of growth! In addition, we will discuss how to provide supportive environments that allow for collaboration between people who come from differing backgrounds (i.e., culture, race, gender and so on). Some of the elements that lend to a place of growth and change are: risk, courageous conversations, mutual respect, gentle confrontation, authentic admiration and (most importantly) the gift of laughter!

***All workshops qualify for RID and BEI CEUs |  
References Available Upon Request***