



COMMUNICATIONS AND
PUBLIC RELATIONS

Gallaudet University Tips for Reporters

Pronunciations for Gallaudet University and Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center:

- **Gallaudet** – [gal-uh-det]
- **Laurent Clerc** – [loh-rah] [kler]

Etiquette:

- Be aware of your environment. Converse in well-lit areas that are not crowded.
- Allow the deaf or hard of hearing person to determine the best seating arrangement to ensure they can see both the speaker and the interpreter.
- To get a person's attention, lightly tap his/her arm or shoulder or wave your hand.
- Speak to the person you are interviewing as if the interpreter was not there. For example, do not ask the interpreter to "tell" the person something.
- Maintain eye contact with the person you are speaking with, not the interpreter.
- Do not interrupt the interview subject when they are signing.
- Do not assume all deaf and hard of hearing people read lips.

Interview tips:

- Allow time to determine seating, placement of participants, and lighting.
- Be sure to write down the name of the interpreter. This may be useful for captioning a photo or video interview.
- When in doubt, ask questions.
- When conducting a television interview, allow the interpreter to use the microphone.
- In certain situations, such as long interviews, there may be two interpreters. Be aware that they may work together and switch off.

American Sign Language (ASL):

- ASL is a visual language with its own grammar and syntax.
- The shape, placement, and movement of the hands, as well as facial expressions and body movements are used to convey meaning.
- ASL uses signs representing ideas, manual signals, and an alphabet (finger spelling).
- ASL is not a manual version of English.
- ASL is not universal. ASL is used predominantly in the US and many parts of Canada.

Appropriate references:

Please use the term “people who are deaf and hard of hearing” instead of “hearing impaired” or “hearing loss.” Do not use the term “disabled” when referring to a deaf or hard of hearing person.

Some material in this article was provided by the [National Association of the Deaf](#).