

Project ideas

THE SHORT VERSION

Ten project ideas for an ASL class — some individual, some group, all built around using the language rather than talking about it.

TEN PROJECT IDEAS

Individual, partner, and group projects for an ASL class.

01 TV talk

Either assign or allow students to pick a movie or TV show that uses ASL. Is the use of ASL effective? Is it a main theme in the show or is it briefly shown? If you could change anything about the show or movie, would you? If yes, what would you change and why? If no, why not?

02 ASL hand painting

Students choose a concept and paint their hands to show a visual representation of the meaning of the sign.

03 Interviewing

Either with a partner, or using role shifting, have students come up with a list of questions and answers for an interview. This can be for a job interview, a red carpet interview, interviewing a family member, etc.

04 Dining experience

Possible as an individual project or as a group. If a group, one person is a server and the others are guests at a restaurant. If individuals, use role shifting to identify the difference of who is signing.

Can have students create a menu, then have the guests of the restaurant ask questions about the menu, practicing vocabulary from food lessons and manners lessons.

05 News report

As a group project, students work together to create a mock news station. One student can be the anchor, and others can cover sports, weather, traffic reports, etc. This can either be a recorded video or a presentation in front of the class, like a “live news report.”

06 Survey

Have students create a survey relating to an aspect of ASL or Deaf culture. Require students to send the survey to a set number of people outside of their ASL class (or any other ASL classes), then summarize their findings in a signed video.

07 First and last video comparison

Students will recreate the first video of the semester to show how much they have improved over the course of the year or semester. They can give specific examples of how they improved and share goals they have to continue improving.

08 Create a board game

ASL is a visual language, so why not create a visual device to help students review and practice their skills. You can include certain criteria that students need to include in their board games, such as specific vocabulary, grammar, or cultural notes.

09 All about me collage

Students create a collage of photos from magazines, articles, wrapping paper, etc. (no photos of themselves or anyone they know) and piece together a collage. Then either in partners, a signed video, or as a presentation, students will point to each photo and explain why they chose that image to describe themselves in ASL.

10 Career fair

Students research and dress up as what they want to be when they grow up. Then introduce themselves to each other as that profession. They can ask and answer each other's questions while interacting with one another in ASL.

YOUR OWN PROJECT IDEAS
