

Ready-to-Go Substitute Lesson Plan Ideas

Fifteen self-contained activities a substitute can facilitate without knowing any ASL.

PURPOSE

Why these activities work

These substitute lesson ideas are designed for Advanced Level 3 ASL students, who should already possess strong receptive and expressive skills and a solid understanding of Deaf culture. Activities emphasize language analysis, translation, ethical reasoning, critical thinking, and authentic communication.

The substitute does not need to know ASL. They primarily facilitate the lesson while students work independently or collaboratively. Every activity is written so students can begin without adult instruction.

THE CATALOG • 15 ACTIVITIES

Suggested substitute activities

1

TRANSLATION

Translation Analysis

Evaluate multiple English translations of an ASL gloss passage and determine which is most accurate and natural.

2

INTERPRETING

Interpreting Decision-Making

Analyze interpreting scenarios — medical, courtroom, job interview, educational — and discuss appropriate decisions.

3

ETHICS

Ethical Dilemmas

Evaluate real-world ethical situations involving interpreters, educators, or Deaf professionals and recommend actions.

4

COMMUNITY

Deaf Community Issues

Read and respond to articles on accessibility, language deprivation, employment, healthcare, technology, or Deaf education.

5

READING

Compare Two Articles

Compare opposing viewpoints on bilingual education, mainstreaming, AI vs. interpreters, or captioning vs. interpreting.

6

LINGUISTICS

Language Analysis

Analyze ASL grammar, non-manual markers, classifiers, role shifting, spatial referencing, and conceptual accuracy.

7

TRANSLATION

Translation Revision

Improve awkward or inaccurate English translations by explaining what should be changed and why.

8

DEAF HISTORY

Deaf Leader Spotlight

Read about an influential Deaf leader and summarize their contributions to the Deaf community.

9

ARGUMENTATION

Debate Preparation

Develop evidence-based arguments supporting or opposing topics in ASL, accessibility, education, or interpreting.

10

DEAF HISTORY

Deaf History Timeline

Arrange major historical events chronologically and explain their significance.

11

REFLECTION

Professional Reflection

Reflect on personal growth in ASL skills, cultural awareness, communication, and future goals.

12

CASE STUDY

Case Study Analysis

Evaluate realistic communication situations, identify barriers, and recommend best practices.

13

CURRENT EVENTS

Current Events

Read and analyze recent articles involving Deaf community issues, accessibility, or disability rights.

14

PLANNING

Preparing for the Next Unit

Predict upcoming vocabulary, grammar concepts, cultural topics, and communication skills.

15

REFLECTION

Advanced Reflection Portfolio

Complete reflective writing prompts documenting growth, strengths, challenges, and future learning goals.