

Ready-to-Go Substitute Lesson Plan Ideas

Fifteen activities a substitute can facilitate without knowing any ASL.

PURPOSE

Why these activities work

These substitute lessons are designed for Level 5 ASL students who have developed advanced language proficiency and a deep understanding of Deaf Culture. Activities emphasize independent analysis, leadership, research, professional ethics, translation, discourse analysis, advocacy, and real-world application.

The substitute does not need ASL knowledge and serves primarily as a facilitator while students complete rigorous academic work.

THE CATALOG • 15 ACTIVITIES

Suggested substitute activities

1 TRANSLATION Translation Masterclass Analyze a lengthy ASL gloss passage, identify multiple acceptable translations, and justify each linguistic choice.	2 DISCOURSE Authentic Discourse Analysis Evaluate an ASL narrative or transcript for structure, classifiers, role shifting, cohesion, and rhetorical techniques.	3 ETHICS Advanced Ethical Case Studies Apply professional ethics to complex interpreting or communication scenarios involving conflicting responsibilities.
4 POLICY Accessibility Policy Review Critique a real accessibility policy from a business, school, hospital, or government agency and recommend improvements.	5 RESEARCH Deaf Studies Research Review Read scholarly or informational articles on Deaf Studies and summarize key findings with supporting evidence.	6 LEADERSHIP Leadership & Advocacy Examine how Deaf leaders influenced education, civil rights, technology, or public policy and evaluate their lasting impact.
7 CURRENT ISSUES Current Issues Roundtable Analyze current topics affecting the Deaf community and develop evidence-based responses.	8 PROFESSIONAL Professional Decision-Making Work through challenging communication scenarios and defend decisions using ethical and cultural reasoning.	9 LINGUISTICS Comparative Linguistics Compare ASL with another signed or spoken language, focusing on grammar, culture, and language structure.
10 ACCESSIBILITY Accessibility Audit Evaluate a public space, event, or organization for accessibility and prepare written recommendations.	11 RESEARCH Research Proposal Design a research project related to ASL linguistics, interpreting, Deaf education, accessibility, or technology.	12 COMMUNITY Community Engagement Reflection Reflect on experiences interacting with the Deaf community and identify future opportunities for involvement.
13 PORTFOLIO Portfolio Reflection Evaluate personal growth, communication skills, cultural understanding, and professional goals.	14 CASE STUDY Capstone Case Study Analyze a comprehensive real-world communication case and develop a detailed action plan supported by evidence.	15 ADVOCACY Future of ASL Write an evidence-based essay discussing the future of ASL, interpreting, technology, accessibility, and Deaf advocacy.