

Elizabeth Garri

ASL 110

Dr. Jones

10/21/19

Deaf Event Reflection

To complete the deaf culture event attendance requirement for ASL 110, I chose to go to the October Parent-Child Advocacy event in Richmond, where I was able to interact with some interpreters and members of the deaf community. During the event, we completed exercises designed to challenge our use of ASL and discussed aspects of the deaf community.

The event gave me a better understanding of communication within the deaf community, as well as how deaf interact with non-signing hearing people. I found it interesting how an older woman shared that many signs she used as a child, such as skunk, have been modified and become uniform today. It was interesting to see how ASL, like all languages, has evolved over time to meet the communicative needs of its users.

Moreover, I was surprised by one of the interpreter's previous experiences working with deaf telecommunications relay services, including Video Relay Service. Telecommunications relay services allow deaf people to communicate with hearing people during phone calls through an interpreter; using the VRS, the interpreter and deaf people are able to see each other and communicate via sign, which better accommodates for the nuances of ASL. Thus, I also gained an appreciation for how technological changes of the 21st century have affected the deaf community.

Overall, the PCA event was an experience that allowed me to learn about and experience deaf culture and the functional usage of ASL among deaf and hearing people.