

So You Want To Be An Interpreter? 4th edition

Study Guide: Chapter 11

Transcript

1. Certification & Development

SPEAKER #1

Um, my study group is, uh, consists of another interpreter from my graduating class and two interpreters from the class that graduated after us. We've been meeting since graduation...so for, uh, you know, eleven, twelve years now. We don't get together as regularly now as we have in the past but, when we do, um, we, we...sometimes we'll actually do a structured activity...if one of us has actually come up with a great idea. Um, sometimes it'll mean someone has just bought a video that they want...it, it almost for me is like, okay, I buy a video, uh, uh, to do with classifiers...if I invite my study group over then it means I actually have to look at it <laughter>... it can't just sit on my shelf. So, it's, um, in some ways, forced professional development, uh, I think that now almost, more so, it's the four of us going out for dinner and talking about...more philosophical matters, you know, things <laughter>...I think sometimes we find that we're talking about now, uh, things that we talked about 5 or 10 years ago but we're talking about it at...in a different level...things that we've observed, um, you know...knowing that we're really comfortable and, you know, whatever we say in our group stays within our group and, uh...that's, that's pretty much...they're good support. I have other support, as well, in the community, other interpreters that I like working with and talking to...and other people that I look to more as mentors but, um, this...the study group is really great for, uh, peer support.

SPEAKER #2: *Signed by a Deaf speaker with English voice over.*

SPEAKER #3: *Signed by a Deaf speaker with English voice over.*

SPEAKER #4

I, I personally like the idea that there's been a standard set and that, um, Deaf people have had some say also in that standard and what kind of ASL, uh, skills that they are looking for in an interpreter. So, I would...I would encourage all interpreters to strive towards certification.

SPEAKER #5: *Signed by a Deaf speaker with English voice over.*

2. Role Benefit Membership

SPEAKER #1

This is what I do and I can't imagine but, at some point, if I change careers, I still will interpret...still, I mean it's in my family I'll...it'll always be part of me and so, this isn't just a job for me. I think of myself as a professional and, for me that means being a member of a professional association, having a code of ethics, knowing that my consumers are protected, um, the fact that, you know, we have a grievance procedure, and that there are like-minded professionals that...we can get together and we can talk about things that are, you know, we may not always agree on but that we actually have a forum for doing that. Um, I think for me though being a member of a professional association is, it's, it's intrinsic. It's not...my value in it is intrinsic, it's not something, it's not like an employer is saying you must be a member...we're not at that point. Um, some employer's say that they would prefer but, for the most part, um, it's not a requirement for employment and, um...so it's something I, I value, um, and I like to think of myself as a professional and it just means, for me, part of the definition of being professional means being a member of a professional association. Uh, I, I think it's just, like,

So You Want To Be An Interpreter? 4th edition

Study Guide: Chapter 11

Transcript

again, it's something that, that I get out being...volunteering on my board and, and making the time, making it a priority for me. It's what I get out of it. So, I'm learning constantly. I mean, I like to volunteer with the students in the interpreting program because my twin can talk to me about, you know, about new terminology that's coming up or ideas that they're...things they're learning in the program that I, otherwise, wouldn't be privy to...um, so it, you know, I, uh...I think that there people that, uh, I, I...I don't know...I think that that our profession is just so young at this point that people become members for different reasons and just the fact that someone wants to be a member I think, good on ya, you know...and I, I imagine, that, uh, even, you know, teachers associations and other professional associations...there are some people that are going to be the ones that are doing it and there are other people that are gonna be, maybe, more reflective and contributing in other ways...and just because I don't see them come to the meetings and all the professional development and all the rest of it doesn't mean that they aren't doing stuff that, that I don't see.

SPEAKER #2

I think it's really important that interpreter's are involved in the professional associations and partly because we're still such a new field. Uh, a lot of people have never run into an interpreter, they've never had to use the services of an interpreter, and as we are seen more and more in the community, uh, we need to be able to...convince people that we're there in a professional capacity and being a member of a national or provincial association really helps with that.

SPEAKER #3

The more that I'm...the more that I'm, um...out in the field I...I don't know...I look to work with people who are a part of an organized profession. I think that's the only way that, um, we'll get respect as a profession and if people are working out there who are, um, doing one year of, of signing language and then going...sign language and then going out there and working. I don't know if I want to work with them and because of the fact that they didn't learn all about the code of ethics that we learned in school, they don't, um...they don't know how to interpret, is what it comes down to. So, I think that people who, who are out there who are working should be part of a, um, a prof...uh...a professional organization because of the fact that, you know, we are already a minority in, in a huge field of other professions and to be recognized as a profession, I think that we need to be a part of one, uh, an organization. WAVLI is, you know, great. I know that some people gripe about, you know, we pay so much dues and stuff but, hey, we don't pay nearly as much as other professions do so I...I'm not griping about that at all. Like, I...just to even be part of a team and to be able to, to, to know that you can go somewhere where, where you have an ethical dilemma or...I don't know, I just...I feel strongly about it...that people who, uh, who work out in this field should be part of a professional organization.