

## AN OVERVIEW

*So You Want To Be An Interpreter?* is currently used by a majority of interpreter preparation programs in North America as a primary educational resource. It evolved from decades of field-based research and classroom instruction, incorporating the history, trends and issues in the field of sign language interpretation. Readers will find all of the vital information they need to study for the written portions of certification examinations in both the United States and Canada. It has proven valuable to seasoned interpreters as well as newcomers to the field.

This Study Guide and supplemental video clips were developed to guide individuals studying the textbook. It can be used by a variety of students in diverse learning environments, including:



- ❖ To support students studying in a traditional classroom or taking a course by non-traditional or distance delivery;
- ❖ To guide certified interpreters seeking credits from RID or AVLIC for certification maintenance programs;
- ❖ To assist an individual pursuing professional development and wanting to stay on top of current information in the field;
- ❖ To prepare an interpreter studying for the written portion of the certification examination for RID or AVLIC; or
- ❖ To direct an experienced interpreter seeking advanced placement and/or academic credit in an interpreter program that recognizes prior learning or flexible assessment.

Whatever your goal and purpose, we are pleased that you have selected our materials as you pursue your professional goals.

## FAQs

**FAQ: I'm a working interpreter with several years of experience. Isn't this material too basic to meet my needs?**

NO. Long-time interpreting practitioners have found the text and these study materials helpful in their work. You will find a variety of materials in the base text which will meet you at your experience level. There are new terms, theories and information that you may not have heard or read about. There are new ways of discussing what we do as professional interpreters, as well as why and how we do it.



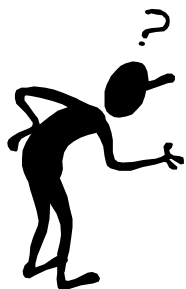
**FAQ: How do I earn credit after I complete the study questions and learning activities?**



That will depend on your status as a learner.

- ❖ If you are studying in a traditional classroom, you are probably using the Study Guide and companion CDs as part of a course in which you are registered as a student. You will be granted credit by the institution in which you are studying. Some colleges and universities will allow you to earn credit by completing the study questions and certain learning activities and submitting it to a faculty member for assessment.
- ❖ If you are an experienced interpreter seeking advanced placement and/or academic credit in an interpreter program that recognizes prior learning or flexible assessment you should contact the college or institution in which you are seeking credit. Once you are assured they will recognize completion of this study guide as part of the documentation required, submit the completed questions and learning activities, along with other required documentation to that institution. They will determine if you qualify for advanced placement or academic credit.
- ❖ If you are a certified interpreter seeking credits for certification maintenance through our professional association, you must get approval from an agency or institution authorized by RID, AVLIC or another professional body. You will submit your completed study questions to that entity for assessment and credit award.

## FAQ: How many hours are involved?



That depends on a number of factors: your schedule, rate of reading, how you learn best and how well you retain information. Preliminary studies indicate that for many individuals, reading the text, reflecting on their learning, viewing the video clips on the companion CD files and completing the study questions take between 20-30 hours. If you choose to do all of the learning activities, it will take between 45-60 hours of study, research, viewing and writing.

## GET A STUDY BUDDY

We strongly urge you to engage in this study with a learning partner who is also studying the textbook and working on the study questions and learning activities. This arrangement will ensure that you have someone who is also working through the learning activities and study questions for support and as a “sounding board.”



## GETTING STARTED

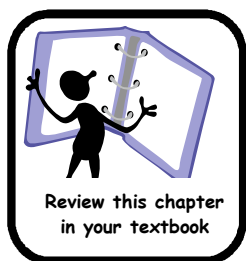
As you begin this study, remember all you have learned about how to study over the years. You need to set aside an area in which to study that is well lighted and free of distractions. Let your friends and others in your home environment know that you will be studying at the specific hours you have planned and won't be taking phone calls or visitors at those times. Be sure you have all the materials you need with you. These will probably include:



- ❖ A computer with CD unit and monitor with clean surrounding desk space;
- ❖ The textbook *So You Want To Be An Interpreter?* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, ISBN: 0-9640367-7-0)
- ❖ The companion CDs which include the Study Guide and video clips to supplement each chapter of the textbook;

- ❖ A learning and observation journal in which to record learning activities, study question answers, and observations conducted; and
- ❖ Other items that help YOU work well — for some people, that is a soft drink, for others it may be music — set up the kind of environment which supports success for your learning style.





Begin your learning journey by reading Chapter One. Then insert the companion CD and open the corresponding “Chapter One.” Here you will find several files. The first is titled “Study Guide.” The information in that file will serve as an index and guide for you to work through the learning activities, related video clips and study questions. Continue through the book and companion CD chapter by chapter.

### ***DESK TOP RESOURCES***

The following desk top files may be useful in helping you navigate your way through the Study Guide CDs.

**MEET THE EXPERTS.** Meet the various individuals you will be seeing on video clips throughout the companion CDs. Some use spoken English and others sign. Some of our “experts” grew up in Deaf culture and others are deaf individuals who came to sign language and Deaf culture later in life. Some “experts” are interpreters, others have a range of experience with deaf individuals and interpreters from none to fairly extensive. The video clips in each file and sub-file within the CD chapter resources are arranged alphabetically by the expert’s first name so you’ll want to get acquainted with them.

**RESOURCES.** This desk top file gives you some helpful web sites to help you supplement your learning and to complete some of the learning activities in the Study Guide.

**DIRECTORY.** This file, as the name indicates, gives the reader a central index to the entire set of companion CDs.

**NOTES ON REGIONAL TERMS** The video materials on the companion CDs were all filmed in Vancouver, British Columbia. As such, you will encounter some terms and signs that are regional in nature. This file will provide information about those terms to help you understand what is being signed or said by our experts.