

DEAF CULTURE IN AMERICA

By Jamie Capuzzi

- ▣ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNyKD I9pn0Q>
- ▣ How is this related to me?

History

- ▣ Deaf Culture was first recognized in 1965 (40 years ago)
- ▣ First written in a dictionary of American Sign Language by William Stokoe, Carl Croneberg and Dorothy Casterline.
- ▣ Just a hearing loss before the definition above
- ▣ Deaf Culture is defined as a set of learned behaviors of a group of people that share a language, values, rules for behavior and traditions.

Language

- ▣ Language and culture go “hand-in-hand”
- ▣ Without language its impossible to learn the culture and without culture language has nothing to refer to.
- ▣ ASL shared language
- ▣ ASL specifically made for the Deaf
- ▣ English is useless
- ▣ “if the ears don’t work... why would you use them?”
- ▣ Deaf to Deaf-No English ASL only, Deaf to Hearing-English and ASL

Values

- ▣ Culture of the Deaf consists only of ASL
- ▣ Other options “help” deaf children learn English (sign Supported Speech, Signed English and Cued Speech are examples.
- ▣ Only are deprive children of the culture and a true ability to communicate effectively.

Speech

- ▣ Not speaking is highly valued in this culture
- ▣ Speech is forced on deaf children and in the culture it represents confinement and deprivation to the Deaf adult.
- ▣ “When hearing a friend of a deaf person turns and continues a conversation as usual, with another hearing friend the deaf person is left out.
- ▣ Exaggerated mouth movements are rude.

Socializing

- ▣ Not many people who are deaf so socializing is vital.
- ▣ Deaf dating sites have become popular
- ▣ Before texting Deaf people would only communicate with each other in person or letters
- ▣ Deaf Camps
- ▣ Deaf Olympics
- ▣ Deaf Schools

Literature

- ▣ Much like American Culture Deaf culture is not written or explained
- ▣ Teaching the culture (art, poetry, stories, theatre, media, games, jokes, books and movies)
- ▣ Songs are not common from the Deaf to Deaf, but the hard-of-hearing ASL crowd is common and beautiful.

Rules for Behavior

- ▣ Eyes- Staring is Necessary.. Breaking eye contact is a sign of being rude
- ▣ Facial Expression- Move a lot, get into what you are saying!
- ▣ Introductions- Full names, what city and school (small community)
- ▣ Labels
 - Hearing Culture it is describes as hearing loss considered better then “deaf”
 - Deaf is considered “difficult”
 - Hard of hearing is “negative”
 - Big D (involved) little d lost hearing

- ▣ Parents want to “fix their kids”
- ▣ Cochlear implants depriving kids and babies from growing up in the culture
- ▣ Pathological view
- ▣ 324,000 people worldwide have these implants young as 1
- ▣ Hearing aids are uncool

Other part of the world

- ▣ Between 70 million-200 million Deaf people in the world that do not have access to education
- ▣ Never learn to read, write, sign or otherwise communicate.
- ▣ Developing countries 90% of deaf people do not go to school