American Deaf Culture Quiz

You will not be penalized for wrong guesses. This quiz is intended to be a way to begin a discussion about topics you probably aren’t familiar with yet. Leave space for taking notes between each question, as we will be discussing these in class. There is more than one possible answer for many of these questions.

1. What is American Sign Language (ASL)? (circle 2)
   A. a visual form of English
   B. a language that relies on mime
   C. a language capable of expressing abstract ideas
   D. a language using picture-like gestures to express ideas and concepts
   E. a language utilizing space and movement to convey meaning

2. Historically, American Sign Language is related to:
   A. British Sign Language
   B. Swedish Sign Language
   C. French Sign Language
   D. German Sign Language

3. American Sign Language is used by most Deaf people in which of the following countries?
   A. Canada
   B. United States
   C. Mexico
   D. Brazil
   E. England

4. Approximately what percent of Deaf people who marry are married to other Deaf people?
   A. 10 percent
   B. 50 percent
   C. 75 percent
   D. 90 percent

5. American Sign Language is traditionally handed down from generation to generation through:
   A. Deaf family members
   B. Deaf adults in the community
   C. Residential schools for the Deaf
   D. Sign Language teachers
   E. classroom teachers

6. The role of facial expressions, head movements, and eye gaze in American Sign Language is primarily:
   A. grammatical
   B. stylistic
   C. emotive (to show emotion)

7. While watching another person sign, it is appropriate to focus on the signer’s:
   A. hands
   B. chest area
   C. face
8. Among ASL signers, fingerspelling is mainly used in what ways?
   A. interchangeably with any sign
   B. to specify brand names
   C. as an artistic form of signing
   D. to give names to people and places

9. ASL makes use of the space in front of a signer's body to: (circle all that apply)
   A. convey distance
   B. contrast two people, places, things, or ideas
   C. express time concepts
   D. indicate sentence types

10. To get the attention of a Deaf person who is looking the other way, you should:
    A. yell as loud as you can
    B. tap him/her on the shoulder
    C. wave in his/her face
    D. go around and stand in front of the person

11. If your path is blocked by two signers conversing with each other, you should:
    A. wait until they stop talking before you pass through
    B. bend down very low in order to avoid passing through their signing space
    C. go ahead and walk through
    D. find another path

12. Which of the following are considered rude by Deaf people?
    A. moving a person aside so you can pass through
    B. watching a signed conversation
    C. describing a distinctive feature of a person to identify him/her
    D. talking (using voice) in the presence of Deaf people

13. In general, the least effective communication strategy between Deaf and hearing people is:
    A. speech and lipreading
    B. using Sign Language
    C. writing back and forth
    D. using interpreters

14. Which of the following are valued in the Deaf community? (circle all that apply)
    A. for community to govern their own affairs
    B. being kept informed about the community and its members
    C. restoring one’s hearing
    D. ability to speak well
    E. to have a sense of social obligation and duty to the group
    F. to develop long term relationships
    G. to be self-reliant (be your own person)

15. Other than the word “Deaf,” a culturally appropriate way to identify Deaf people would be to say they are:
    A. deaf and dumb
    B. deaf mutes
    C. hearing impaired
    D. all of the above
    E. none of the above