

## Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) Rating Scale<sup>a</sup>

| <u>RATINGS</u>              | <u>DESCRIPTORS<sup>b</sup></u>  |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <u>Superior Plus</u>        | <b>Able to have a fully shared and natural conversation with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics.</b> All aspects of signing are native-like with use of native-like prosody.  |
| <u>Superior</u>             | <b>Able to have a fully shared conversation with in-depth elaboration for both social and work topics.</b> Very broad sign language vocabulary, near native-like production, fluency and prosody and excellent use of sign language grammatical features. Excellent comprehension for normal signing rate.  |
| <u>Advanced Plus</u>        | Exhibits some superior level skills, but not <u>all</u> and not <u>consistently</u> .   |
| <u>Advanced</u>             | <b>Able to have a generally shared conversation with good, spontaneous elaboration for both social and work topics.</b> Broad sign language vocabulary knowledge and clear, accurate production of signs and fingerspelling at a normal/near-normal rate; occasional misproductions do not detract from conversational flow. Good use of many sign language grammatical features and comprehension good for normal signing rate.  |
| <u>Intermediate Plus</u>    | Exhibits some advanced level skills, but not <u>all</u> and not <u>consistently</u> .   |
| <u>Intermediate</u>         | <b>Able to discuss with some confidence routine social and work topics within a conversational format with some elaboration; generally 3-to-5 sentences.</b> Good knowledge and control of everyday/basic sign language vocabulary with some sign vocabulary errors. Fairly clear signing at a moderate signing rate with some sign misproductions. Fair use of some sign language grammatical features and fairly good comprehension for a moderate-to-normal signing rate; a few repetitions and rephrasing of questions may be needed. |
| <u>Survival Plus</u>        | Exhibits some intermediate level skills, but not <u>all</u> and not <u>consistently</u> .   |
| <u>Survival</u>             | <b>Able to discuss basic social and work topics with responses generally 1-to-3 sentences in length.</b> Some knowledge of basic sign language vocabulary with many sign vocabulary and/or sign production errors. Slow-to-moderate signing rate. Basic use of a few sign language grammatical features. Fair comprehension for signing produced at a slow-to-moderate rate with some repetition and rephrasing.  |
| <u>Novice Plus</u>          | Exhibits some survival level skills, but not <u>all</u> and not <u>consistently</u> .   |
| <u>Novice</u>               | <b>Able to provide single sign and some short phrase/sentence responses to basic questions signed at a slow-to-moderate rate with frequent repetition and rephrasing.</b> Vocabulary primarily related to everyday work and/or social areas such as basic work-related signs, family members, basic objects, colors, numbers, names of weekdays, and time. Production and fluency characterized by many sign production errors and by a slow rate with frequent inappropriate pauses/hesitations.   |
| <u>No Functional Skills</u> | <b>(May be) Able to provide short single sign and “primarily” fingerspelled responses to some basic questions signed at a slow rate with extensive repetition and rephrasing.</b>   |

<sup>a</sup>Adapted from US Foreign Service Institute & ACTFL LPI Rating Scales by William Newell & Frank Caccamise

<sup>b</sup>For all SCPI rating descriptors, **first statement (in bold type) always a statement of ASL communicative functioning**, with all remaining statements (regular type) descriptors of ASL form (vocabulary, production, fluency, grammar, and comprehension).

## SLPI: ANALYZING FUNCTION

| <b>SLPI RATING</b>         | <b>ELABORATION/LENGTH OF RESPONSES</b>   | <b>SENSE OF SHAREDNESS/ SPONTANEITY</b>  |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| SUPERIOR PLUS/<br>SUPERIOR | In-depth elaboration,<br>Excellent detail.   | Fully acceptable, comfortable<br>Shared/spontaneous; crosstalk,<br>back channel feedback, native-<br>like prosody.                 |
| ADVANCED PLUS              | Full elaboration. Good to excellent<br>detail.   | Close to fully acceptable and<br>close to fully comfortable,<br>shared/spontaneous, excellent<br>prosody.                          |
| ADVANCED                   | Generally complete answer with<br>good detail/elaboration; may have<br>some use of THEN and/or AND.  | Generally acceptable and<br>generally shared/spontaneous,<br>fairly comfortable, generally<br>good use of prosody                  |
| INTERMEDIATE PLUS          |  |  |
| INTERMEDIATE               | Sometimes elaborated answer,<br>generally 3-to-5 sentences,<br>frequent use of THEN and/or<br>AND; surface answer good<br>enough but not much detail | but Looks like a conversation;<br>fairly shared with some<br>question/answer; PLUS<br>sometime spontaneous with<br>some confidence |
| SURVIVAL PLUS              |  |  |
| SURVIVAL                   | Generally 1-to-3 sentences; hands<br>often go to lap after short<br>responses.   | Does not feel/look like a<br>conversation; not shared, with<br>many questions by interviewer                                       |
| NOVICE PLUS                |  |  |
| NOVICE                     | Generally 1 sentence, phrase,<br>single sign responses; may<br>fingerspell some very basic signs   | many questions, rephrasing,<br>slow, simplified signing  |
| NO FUNCTIONAL SKILLS       | (MAY have) Some short phrase,<br>single sign responses to a few<br>questions; fingerspelling for even<br>very basic signs                            | even basic questions signed<br>slowly with repetition and/or<br>rephrasing often<br>misunderstood                                  |