

SLPI INFORMATION #6: ANGLES AND OTHER SLPI RECORDING GUIDELINES

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SLPI Notebook (NB) Section 3A includes guidelines for recording SLPIs:

1. SLPI Interviews: Materials, Equipment, Room Set-Ups, and Recording Steps/Guidelines - Includes diagrams for right and left handed dominant signers; these diagrams are replicated below).
2. Steps/Guidelines for Recording SLPI Interviews: One page lists steps if program has both a Media Person and Interviewer, and a second page lists steps if program has only an Interviewer. As stated in Section 3A, one of these pages should be re-written as necessary to be consistent with interview recording procedures used by each program.

The primary focus of this SLPI PAPER is to stress the importance of recording angles for SLPIs when one camera is used (not split screen with two cameras) in order to help ensure SLPI Raters have the view necessary to fairly rate and describe each interviewee's sign language communication skills.

Based on our review of SLPI videos from several programs, there seems to be a tendency to angling the camera in order to have an "equally" clear view of both the interviewer and the interviewee. In addition, there is often open space off the shoulder of interviewees' non-dominant signing hands and too much space above their heads. However, with one camera a nearly equal or equal view of both interviewers and interviewees makes it difficult to clearly see interviewees' signing, especially their fingerspelling, non-manual signals, and use of space. Thus, rating interviewees becomes difficult, and possibly unfair.

As discussed in Section 3A, for single camera recording interviewer and interviewee should sit facing one another with camera placed to capture side view of interviewer and nearly frontal view of interviewee and angled to allow for clear view of interviewee's dominant hand palm (see Diagrams 1 and 2 below). With proper single recorder placement it will appear that recorder is focused on interviewee (nearly frontal view, with slight angle for clearer view of palm side of interviewee's dominant signing hand). Camera shoots over interviewer's shoulder at approximately a 45 degree angle, with view of interviewee as large and tight to shoulder of non-dominant sign hand as possible; that is, no "open" space between shoulder of non-dominant signing hand and view of interviewee on monitor and with minimal space above head of interviewee.

DIAGRAMS FOR RECORDING SLPI INTERVIEWS: ONE CAMERA

DIAGRAM 1
 For Right Handed Dominant Signer

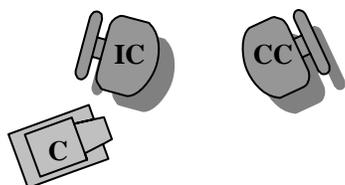
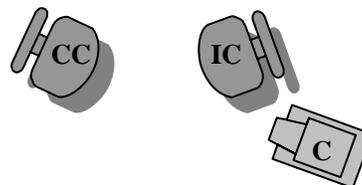


DIAGRAM 2
 For Left Handed Dominant Signer



Key: CC = Interviewee's Chair IC = Interviewer's Chair C = Camera

To help ensure continued use of proper recording angles we recommend the following:

1. Most important, SLPI Coordinators should periodically check SLPI recordings in order to ensure proper recorder angles are being used.
2. SLPI Coordinators or someone designated by them should mark proper locations in interviewing rooms for recording equipment and chairs, considering both right and left handed dominant signers. When marking proper locations, persons should be seated in both interviewer and interviewee chairs, and they should look at one another, not the recorder.

Note: Although chairs generally need to be placed in close proximity, it is important to ensure proper personal signing space is maintained between interviewee and interviewer. In order to allow proper use of the signing space, chairs with no arms and no rollers should be used.

3. A sample recording should be produced showing the proper set-up for SLPI recording rooms and this should be reviewed periodically by all SLPI Team Members and all (other) persons responsible for setting-up SLPI recordings rooms and equipment. It may be appropriate to review this sample recording at an annual SLPI Team meeting at the beginning of each assessment year/cycle. SLPI Team Members may not be responsible for setting-up interview recording rooms, but they should be knowledgeable about proper interview room set-up and they should request adjustments in set-up when appropriate. SLPI interviews that interviewees have given permission to use for training should be used as samples to show proper recording angles, and improper recording angles if available, for SLPI interviews. (In *SLPI NB S3A* see form entitled "Permission to Use SLPI Videos for Training, Demonstration, and Research.")
4. Since *SLPI NB* Section 3A addresses SLPI interview materials, equipment, room set-up, and recording steps/guidelines, it should be reviewed by SLPI Team Members and all (other) persons involved in recording SLPIs on a periodic basis. A review of Section 3A is appropriate for the annual SLPI Team meeting at the beginning of each assessment year or cycle as stated above.

One other suggestion - SLPI videos should be rewound at the end of all recording and rating sessions.