

Interpreting



OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING

Participants will be able to describe:

- An overview of sign language interpreting
- Identify traits of a professional sign language interpreter
- The role of the interpreter
- The ethical principles that guide the work of interpreters



WHAT IS WASLI ?

WASLI is an international non-governmental organization representing sign language interpreters that works to develop the profession of interpreting at the international level



Promotes the development of interpreting worldwide through formations of national interpreter associations, and lobbying for effective training and standards of practice.

Work in partnership with deaf and deafblind associations on sign language interpreting issues

ACTIVITY ONE

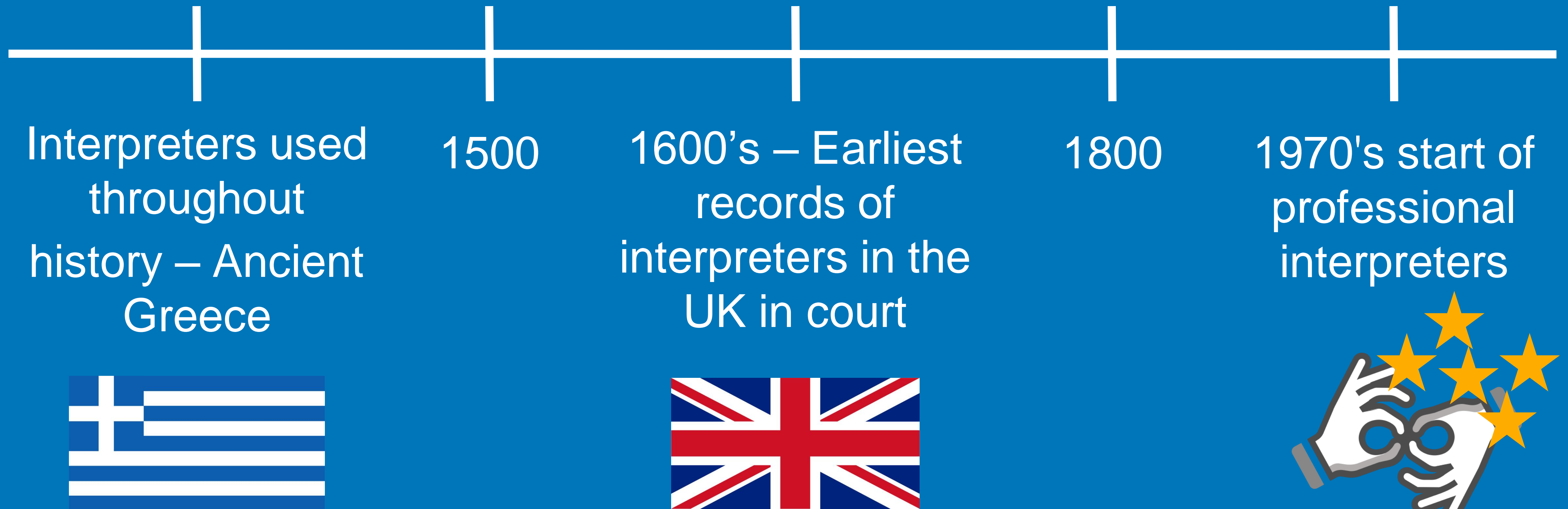
When I think about being a sign language interpreter, I am most concerned about _____

OR

As a deaf person I am most concerned about _____
and sign language interpreters



HISTORY OF SLI



WHAT DO INTERPRETERS DO?



SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Interpreters are:

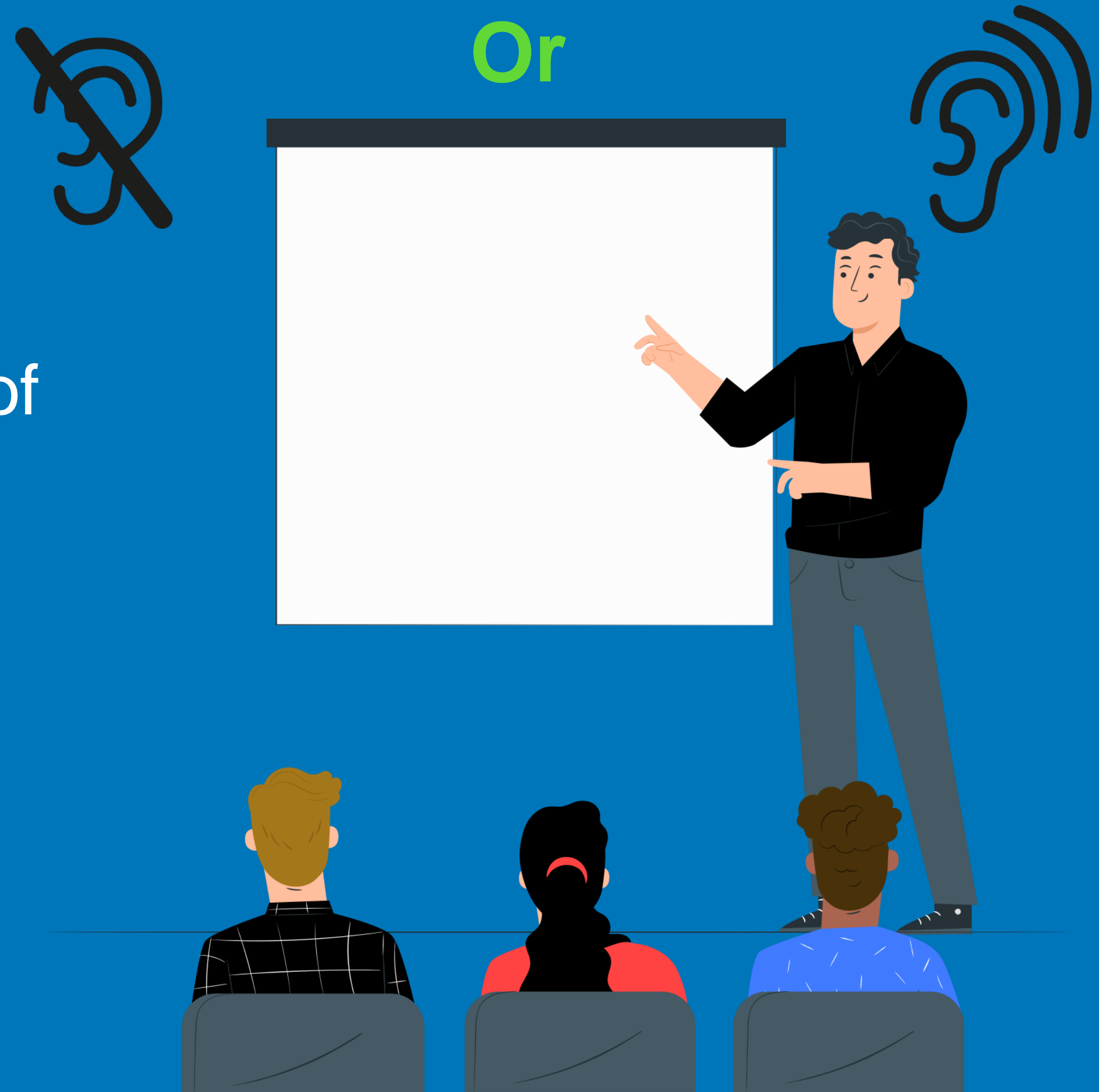
- Fluent in the spoken and sign language of the country
- Capable of interpreting between two languages in a range of settings and events
- Able to be impartial and allow the parties to make their own decisions
- Able to understand the ethics that guide the profession of SLI interpreters
- **Facilitate communication** between people who don't share same language



SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

Interpreters are:

- Can be deaf or hearing
- Same ethical practices are required of both deaf and hearing interpreters
- Just because you are deaf doesn't mean you are an interpreter
- All interpreters need to be trained



ACTIVITY 2: WHAT MAKES A GOOD INTERPRETER?

With elbow partner:

- Identify 5 traits you think interpreters must have
- What do you think a sign language interpreter is.....



HOW ABOUT THIS INTERPRETER?



GOOD OR BAD INTERPRETERS

Effective

- Show respect for all parties
- Interpret all the information accurately
- Is impartial and ethical
- Prepares as much as possible (ex: reading materials prior to a class or conference presentation)



Not Effective

- Offers opinions while interpreting
- Omits or changes information
- Accepts assignments that they are not qualified for
- Is not respectful of the participants
- Does not follow ethics



INTERPRETER COMPETENCIES

- Language Proficiency: A & B languages
- Intercultural competence
- Interpersonal competence
- Communicative competence
- Interpreting competence
- Notetaking, consecutive interpreting, simultaneous interpreting
- **Technical competence**
- **Specialized knowledge** for setting



ACTIVITY 3: RESPONSIBILITIES OF INTERPRETER?

Join Small Group

- What do you think are the interpreter's responsibilities?
- What are the deaf and hearing consumer's responsibilities



ROLE OF INTERPRETER: INTERPRET

- <http://wasli.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/WASLI-Statement-on-Role.pdf>

1. Complete and accurate information between spoken and signed language consumers

- Impartial in the interaction
- Content, contextual information, communication goals, improve conditions for productive communication



ROLE OF INTERPRETER: ETHICAL DECISIONS

- <http://wasli.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/06/WASLI-Statement-on-Role.pdf>
- 2. Ensure their skills are suitable for assignment
 - Professional development - on going training
 - Prepare for the work to do a good job
 - Turn down work in not qualified or cannot stay impartial



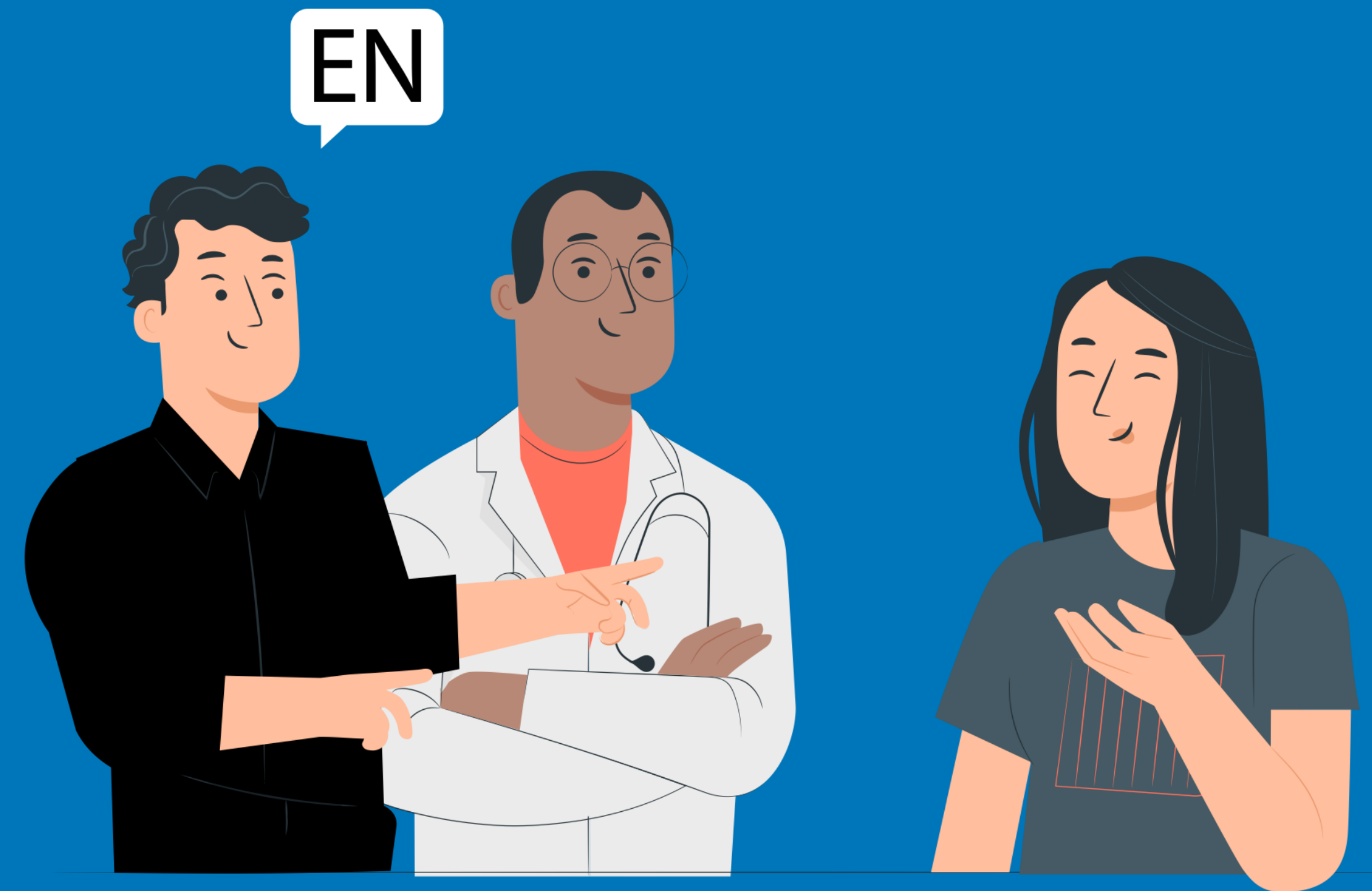
ROLE OF INTERPRETER: DEAF DIRECT OWN LIVES

- <http://wasli.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/WASLI-Statement-on-Role.pdf>
- 3. Deaf people have the right to represent self and direct own lives
- Expect interpreters to understand and be engaged in activities aimed at achieving equality for deaf people
- Deaf - Boards - Leadership role



ROLE OF INTERPRETER: PERSONAL ASSISTANT? OTHER ROLES?

- <http://wasli.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/WASLI-Statement-on-Role.pdf>
- Interpreter as personal assistant?
Interpreter/counsellor;
Interpreter/teacher?
- What other roles do interpreters play in community? How keep it all clear?
- Many countries: Interpreter is interpreter. Not personal assistant, not counsellor....



ROLE OF INTERPRETERS IN AWARENESS RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DEAF COMMUNITY?

Working hand in hand with deaf community

Advocacy 

SLI Training 

Recognition of SLI profession 

Law and regulations 

SLI Employment 

Deaf people have access to information in sign language and to **quality interpreter services**

ACTIVITY 4: WHAT IS EASY? WHAT IS HARD?

Join a different small group (3-4 people); flipchart and pens; record your answers:

- What is easy about the role of a SLI? What is hard?
- What are the deaf and hearing consumer's responsibilities
- Be ready to share with large group in 20 minutes...



ETHICAL CODES AND GUIDELINES

ETHICS – BASIC IDEAS

- Confidentiality
- Impartiality
- Competence
- Non-discrimination
- Professional accountability
- Create professional relationships – respect for colleagues
- Honest and fair in business relationships
- <https://wasli.org/your-wasli/code-of-ethics>



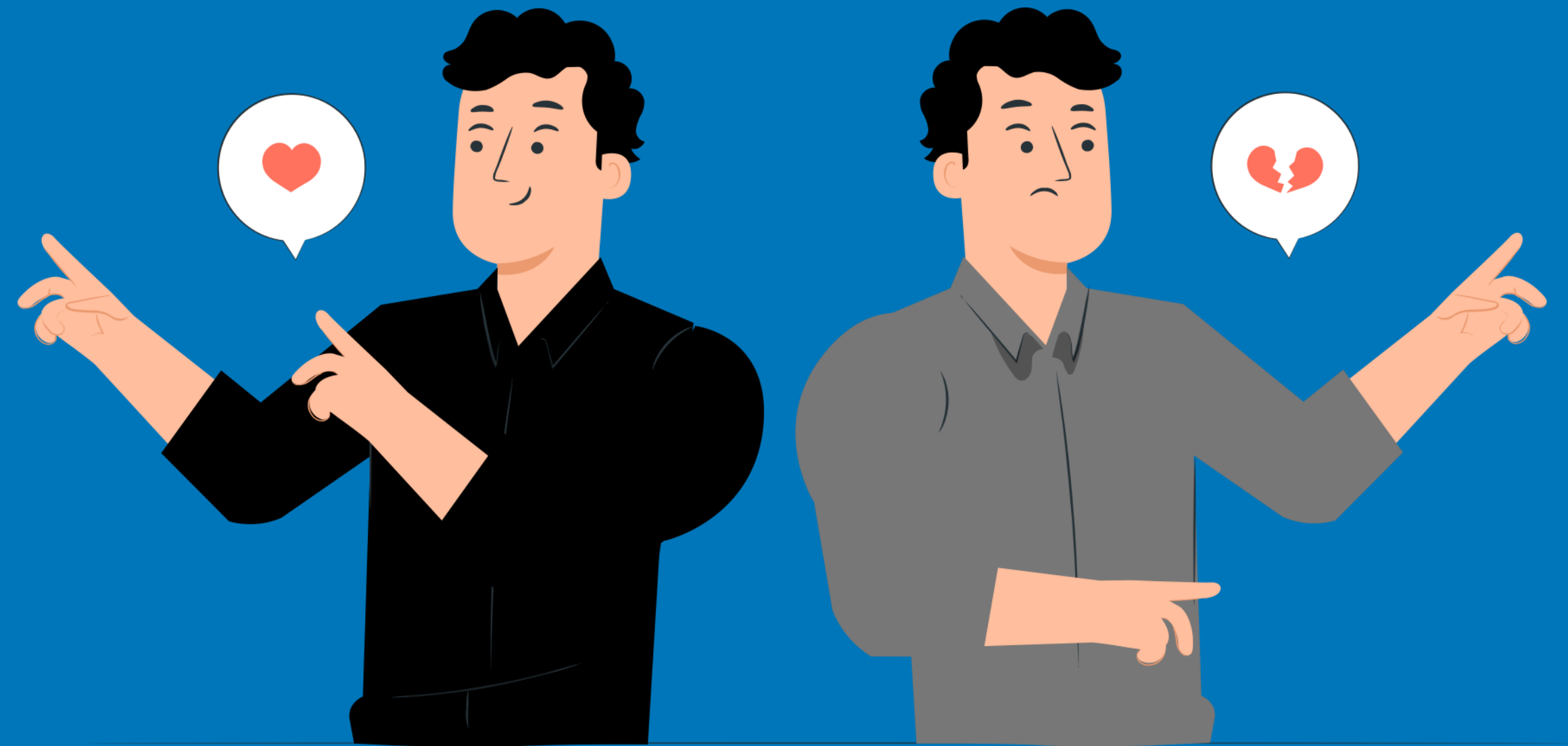
ETHICS – BASIC IDEAS

- Decision Making Strategies
- Not right/wrong, but best decision in this situation
- Can see how decisions impact consumers
- Able to work collaboratively with others to make decisions
- <https://wasli.org/your-wasli/code-of-ethics>



HAVING TOO MUCH RULES..

- Require or exclude specific actions, behaviors
 - reduce/eliminate flexibility to exercise professional judgment
- Leads to right / wrong thinking



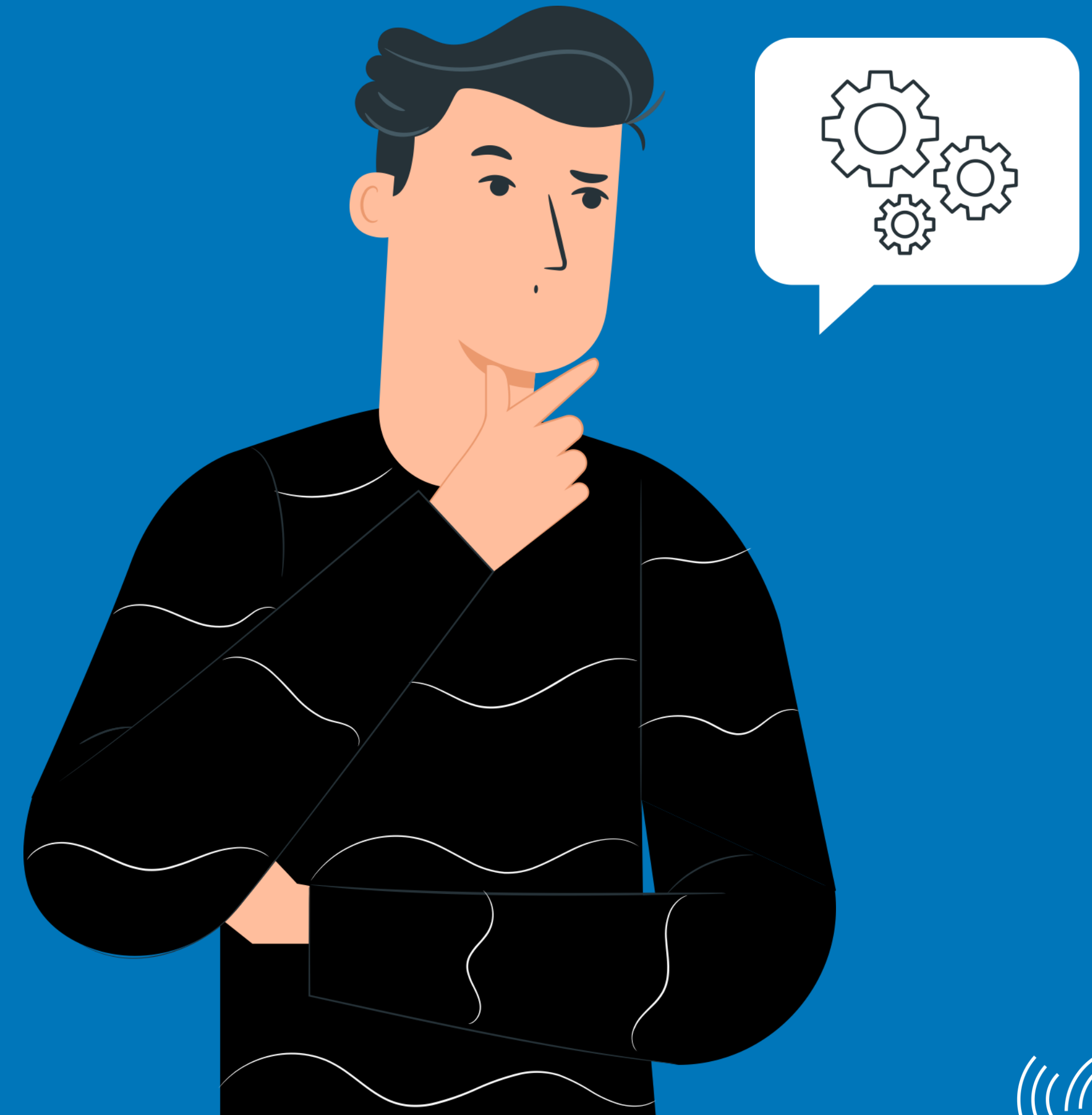
ACTIVITY 5: THINK ALOUD?

- With small group, identify the key ideas covered so far:
 - What is a SLI?
 - What do effective interpreters do?
 - What the basic ideas in a Code of Ethics?
 - What is challenging about being a SLI?



SUGGESTED READINGS

- What are your traits that will make you a great interpreter?
- How can you collaborate with the Interpreter and deaf associations to make interpreter better in your country?
- What does WASLI do to collaborate with WFD?
- What does it mean to be an ethical interpreter?
- What do you need to focus on in order to improve your interpreting skills?
- Can you identify three goals for learning?



SUGGESTED READINGS

- WASLI Role of the Interpreter
- WASLI Educational Training Guidelines
- Janzen, Terry, and Donna Korpiniski. 2005. Ethics and Professionalism in Interpreting. In Terry Janzen (Ed.), Topics in Signed Language Interpreting: Theory and Practice. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins. 165-199.
- Russell, D., & Stone, C., (accepted for publication). International Perspectives on Language Interpreting. In: Jan Humphrey and LeWana Clark, eds. So you want to be an interpreter. H & H Publishing: Amarillo, TX.
- Russell, D. (2018). International perspectives on interpreting: Isn't everything just like at home?. In Len Roberson and Sherry Shaw (Eds.) Signed Language Interpreting in the 21 Century. pp. 173-198. Gallaudet University Press: Washington DC.
- Russell, D. (2017). Deaf/non-deaf Interpreter Teams: The complexity of professional practice. In Christopher Stone & Lorraine Leeson (Eds.) Interpreting and the Politics of Recognition. Routledge: New York City
- <https://www.mtapractice.com/2017/01/10/professional-ethics-interpreters/>