

Court Interpreter Practice Materials Tip Sheet

The National Center for State Courts (NCSC) has made available materials for court interpretation practice and skills-building. These materials include common courtroom documents and scripted scenarios that you can use to practice the three modes of interpretation: **sight translation** (English to Target Language and Target Language to English); **consecutive interpretation**, and **simultaneous interpretation**. We encourage you to use these materials for continued development of your court interpreting skills.

Here are a few ways you can use these materials:

Prepare the Materials for Work in Two Languages:

The materials provided are in English only. To help you practice interpreting in English and your non-English language, take a few minutes to prepare the provided materials in the following ways:

- ❑ **Translate one (or both) of the Sight Translation documents into your non-English language.** After you have translated the document in writing, you can practice sight translating it into English.
- ❑ **Translate the “Answer” portions of the Consecutive interpretation script into your non-English language. Then, record both the English “Question” portions and your translated “Answer” portions.** You can do this yourself or with the help of another person. This will give you audio files that you can practice interpreting in the consecutive mode, simulating a courtroom exchange.
- ❑ **Record the Simultaneous interpretation script.** You can do this yourself or with the help of another person. This will give you an audio file that you can practice interpreting in the simultaneous mode.

Practice with Your Prepared Materials:

- ❑ **Practice your interpreting and record yourself.** Practice interpreting the materials into English and your non-English language while recording your performance so you can go back and assess your interpretations. As you listen to your recordings, think about your delivery and the accuracy of your interpretations. You may also want to refer to the [Common Oral Interpreting Exam Performance Deficiencies](#) to help you identify possible areas for improvement. (Note that you will need to use a recording device, a playback device, and headphones for the Consecutive and Simultaneous interpretation materials so that you capture only your voice, and not the source audio if you have recorded these as audio tracks.)

- ❑ **Assess your renditions of keywords.** All scripts provided here have **bolded**, underlined keywords, which represent various features of language. As you practice, use the keywords to help you determine whether you are accurately conveying the same meaning, register, and grammatical structure of the source message.
- ❑ **Build a glossary.** As you practice, compile a glossary of terms and phrases in English and your non-English language, as well as possible renditions and contextual cues, to help you choose the appropriate rendition at the appropriate time.

We hope these materials help you practice and improve your interpreting skills!

