

RITE Lab Think Tank

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Objectives

The RITE Lab Think Tank takes an innovative approach to interpreting research by actively collaborating with and involving NTID ASLIE students in inquisitive research-focused discourse. The aim of the Think Tank is to encourage students to actively engage in research while simultaneously stimulating further investigation in the field of signed language interpreter education.

Methods

The Think Tank provides possibilities for student inclusion and exposure to research ideas in a casual setting via small group and big group discussions. Creative thinking, conversation, collaboration, and social and intellectual stimulation are encouraged and fostered. A guiding question is developed for each Think Tank, and a list of discussion starters and questions are created to inspire and guide conversations. However, students are encouraged to change topics and follow whatever ideas interest them and are not limited to following the guiding question. Notes are actively taken during discussions, and summaries of the main points discussed are written for later reflection.

Think Tank Rules

1. Remain respectful.
2. Brainstorm!
3. Provide reasoning when agreeing or disagreeing
4. Ideate freely while staying on topic
5. Collaborate
6. Have an open mind!

Results

The Think Tank's innovative research group is sparking new ideas and allowing for a creative and collaborative discourse honing in on students' expertise and specialized knowledge of interpreter education.

- Discussions have included the effectiveness of teaching methods and curriculum designs, the impact of language and culture on interpretation, and the current experiences of interpreting students at NTID.
- Suggestions have informed departmental curriculum decisions
- One Think Tank participant has received an undergraduate research fellowship (SURF) to further investigate their ideas
- Faculty members and researchers have expressed interest in attending the RITE Lab Think Tanks and are benefiting from the summaries and notes taken during Think Tank discussions.
- Several research questions have been added to the growing list garnered from the student discussions at the Think Tank meetings.



Sample Guiding Questions

- How is reading/written homework different from video homework (recording yourself)?
- Flow in learning - is it happening for ASLIE students? If so, how and when. If not, what would help?
- What does "support" mean to you? What educational actions feel supportive or not supportive?

Future of the Think Tank

This is the first semester running the RITE Lab Think Tank, but it will continue to run in future years. The final Think Tank of this semester will invite ASLIE faculty members and researchers to attend and observe. The goal of the final Think Tank is to discursively develop guiding questions for next year's Think Tanks. This will be accomplished through a democratic process of fostering group discussions to identify the biggest issues and inquiries ASLIE students are currently facing, then implementing ranked choice voting to determine the top issues. These top issues will become Think Tank guiding questions for next year. A survey will be sent out to all the Think Tank attendants to obtain feedback which will inform the running of future Think Tanks.

Students' experiences and perspectives are a valuable asset to research in interpreting and translation. The RITE Lab Think Tank will actively support inquiry-based scholarship to improve to the discipline of interpreter education.

References

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