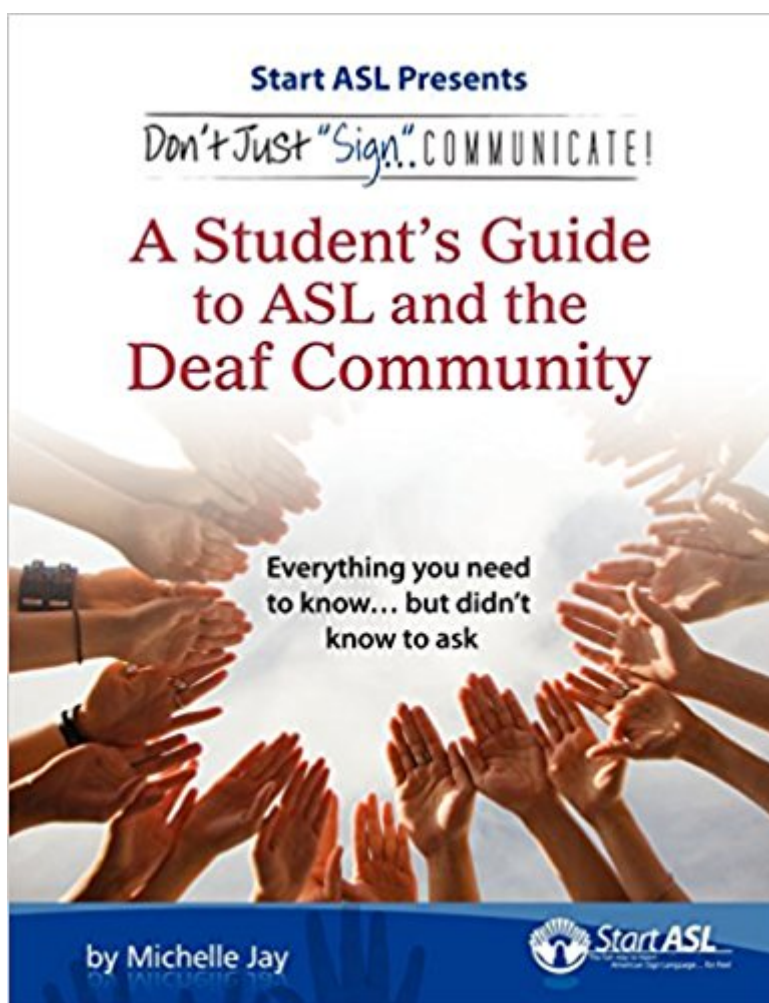


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# Don't Just Sign... Communicate!: A Student's Guide To American Sign Language And The Deaf Community



## Synopsis

The Heart Of Any Language Is Found Within Its Culture... As anyone who has learned a foreign language will tell you, all language is an experience. And that experience is found through a language's culture its people. The journey toward complete comprehension and usage of American Sign Language includes the recognition, not only of the sovereignty of the language, but of the understanding that ASL lives within its own community and culture. The full learning and understanding of a language involves much more than vocabulary or sentence structure. All language is unique in vocabulary, grammar, syntax, emotion, and more... including culture. ASL is a language unique to the community that uses it. Don't Just "Sign"... Communicate! focuses on giving you a better understanding of the ASL community and culture, as well as a better and more comprehensive understanding of learning the language. This guide successfully takes you inside the Deaf community and gets you involved in its fascinating culture. Take advantage of this informative and handy resource that will make your journey into ASL a fulfilling adventure. Start ASL has created this guide so that you can easily explore the ASL language and Deaf culture. This guide provides you with tools, advice, and helpful resources not available anywhere else!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book is a real gem! When it's time to step out of the classroom and into the Deaf Community--Michelle Jay's advice and insights are just what you need! Remember what you learned from this book and you'll do great!" - William G. Vicars, Ed.D. (Also known as "Dr. Bill" of [Lifeprint.com](#)) "Whenever I am questioned to offer a suggestion of a good, easy to read book about sign language and the Deaf community, I now have a clear answer... this book packs a ton of useful

information in one spot. A must have for any new sign language student!" - John Miller, Co-Founder, Educator, SigningSavvy.com "This book is an essential guide for those thinking of learning ASL, considering a career working within the Deaf community or looking to understand Deaf culture. It is filled with all the important information you need in one place and is truly an amazing read." - Pearl Feder, L.C.S.W., Editor & Coordinator, SayWhatClub Social Media "As a Deaf person from Gallaudet University with Masters Studies in ASL Linguistics, I recommend this book for the beginning ASL signer. Communication involves more than just learning, using, and understanding the language. This book smoothly pulls it all together while inspiring the novice learner." - MJ Williams, Author, BabiesandSignLanguage.com "This is a great book for students to learn about the Deaf Culture, community, history, professions and much more. I recommend this book as a supplement to any other ASL book used in the classroom." - Cindy Dawes, ASL Instructor, Fivay High School

Beginning when she was only thirteen years old, Michelle Jay has understood her passion and love for ASL. As a hearing person in the Deaf community, Michelle was determined to master everything she could about ASL... not just "how to sign" but the very best ways to learn to sign as well! As the founder of StartASL.com, the leading online resource for ASL and Deaf Culture, Michelle has tremendous insight into this unique community. Michelle earned a Bachelor's Degree in Deaf Studies, with an emphasis in teaching, from one of the nation's premier programs at California State University, Northridge. When not writing books or tending her website, Michelle contributes thought-provoking articles to academic publishers such as Greenhaven Press. Her unique articles have done much to support Deaf Culture, and have been printed in resource publications such as American Chronicle and Perspectives on Diseases & Disorders: Deafness & Hearing Impairments.

I am currently a student studying ASL/Interpreter Training. I am always looking for ways to supplement what I learn at college, these books were AMAZING! I honestly think they are better than the textbooks I used this past semester in a very well respected ITP program. I would definitely recommend Michelle Jay's books to anyone who wants to learn "real" ASL, not just some watered down version of a mix of ASL and English. I have purchased all 3 books available by Ms. Jay and can't wait to share them with my fellow students and my ASL professors. Bonus :) Michelle is a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults), so she really knows her ASL/Deaf Culture!

This book is well-written and well-organized. It alerts the reader to the fact that simply learning ASL

is not enough. The book points out that to be successful in communicating with the Deaf, one must understand the history, customs and "mindset" of the people who use the language. Michelle Jay goes on to present this information in a way that is engaging and easy to read. I highly recommend this book for all Deaf Studies students and for anyone with an interest in this fascinating language.

Hearing folks are often clueless as to what the Deaf-World is really like, really about, and they are often not sure what the best approach is to finding out, particularly if they have a goal to learning proper American Sign Language. Michelle Jay's *Don't Just Sign...Communicate: A Student's Guide to ASL and the Deaf Community* offers a fantastic way to self learn. I love this concise, friendly reference book! It describes the history of the Deaf-World; beliefs, values, behaviors, traditions, and practices within that world; Deaf Education; ASL Careers; Deaf-World terminology, Deaf-World technology, and much more. In short, the book is an engaging summary of the whole Deaf culture in the US. It includes information on how to become meaningfully and respectfully involved with ASL and Deaf communities. Readers even have a chance to test themselves in the final chapter to gauge what they've learned from the book.

Features of the Book That I Especially Enjoyed Are...

- The Top 5 American Sign Language Myths
- The 7 Best Ways to Learn American Sign Language
- Gray Fact, Tip, Term, and Quote boxes that offer cool trivia, hints, vocabulary, and comments throughout the text.
- Deaf Culture Do's and Don'ts
- Oralism Versus Sign Language Debate
- Deaf Education / Careers
- Test Your Knowledge! (50 Questions covering major concepts from the book)
- Detailed Resource List

To supplement a Beginner's ASL class at college, I purchased this book along with another book by Michelle Jay: *Don't Just Sign...Communicate! A Student's Guide to Mastering ASL Grammar*. That book proves to be an acceptable companion to the book reviewed on this page because it dives into the actual ASL language basics with more specific details, images, and teaching points... beginning signs, the basic foundations for successfully studying the language. So, I recommend these books as a paired-purchase! Be sure to use them with an appropriate ASL dictionary. :) Really, for the best results, one should read the "A Student's Guide to ASL and the Deaf Community" before beginning the lessons of "A Student's Guide to Mastering ASL Grammar." To truly understand the language of a people, you have to appreciate their culture...where they've been, where they are, and where they are going.

Seemed like common sense ideas

It's helping me a lot to understand the culture I'm stepping into. Being born hard of hearing & now

I'm almost fully Deaf, this helps a lot!

I finished this book in 4 hours. It is choked full of good information on how to learn ASL as well as a overview of the Deaf culture. This is the first book anyone should get when starting out to learn ASL. The author has created a very detailed list of all resources that will make your journey an easy one. I can't wait to get the other two books in this series.

If you are looking for a good first book on signing and how to communicate with a new deaf friend or colleague, this is it. Deaf culture is somewhat different from hearing culture and this book will help you feel comfortable in your first experiences.

I love the book. Having a deaf child and being a hearing parent I am thirsty for information so that my child and I can effectively communicate. The book is easy to read and understand. It is a lot of information, but not overwhelming.

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The Everything Sign Language Book: American Sign Language Made Easy... All new photos!  
Sign Language for Everyone: A Basic Course in Communication with the Deaf  
Deaf Culture: Exploring Deaf Communities in the United States  
The Deaf Mute Howls (Gallaudet Classics in Deaf Studies Series, Vol. 1)  
SIGN with your

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