

# Harrington and Turner (2000) – Preparing for assignments

## 1) Preparability

How much time and opportunity will you have to prepare for the assignment?

## 2) Directionality

One-way or two-way interpreting? Which mode of interpreting will you use?

## 3) Stoppability

How tolerant is the assignment to interpreter interventions?

## 4) Sensitivity

How sensitive is the nature of the assignment? Will there be need for post-assignment support?

## 5) Role Multiplicity

How many different roles or agents of the interaction will there be? E.g. There may be 100 people in a lecture room, but only 2 roles (lecturer and student), whereas there can be several different roles in a courtroom.

## 6) Language familiarity

How familiar are you with the type of language that will be used? E.g. regional sign variations (accents, dialects), social sign variations (GSV, ethnic minority signs) etc.

## 7) Language plurality

How much variation will there be in the language used among participants? E.g. if there are several BSL users, how will you meet the varying language use within that group?

## 8) Language technicality

How technical will the assignment be? How familiar are you with the language protocols of the domain (i.e. the lexicon and grammatical structures particular to that domain)?

## 9) Adaptability

How adaptable or flexible will the clients and service users be towards the interpreter (i.e. client expectations). How experienced is the client and service user in using interpreters?

## 10) Preservability

Will the assignment be recorded? How might your performance differ if the assignment is recorded? Does this influence your decision to accept the job?

## 11) Scrutiny

How high profile is the assignment (e.g. are you interpreting for the CEO of the NHS, a government minister etc.)? How much scrutiny from the audience members might there be (e.g. hearing people fluent in BSL, other interpreters).

**12) Perceived difficulty**

On a personal level, what do you perceive as difficult factors of this assignment (e.g. fear of hospitals, bad experiences with the same client etc.)