

Module 1 Assignment: ASL 205L

Based on comments I have received, we will begin the ASL 3 Lab with a review of information learned in previous classes. Use this time to prepare yourselves to participate fully in signed conversations. At this level, more emphasis is placed on you being able to express yourself in ASL whereas in ASL 1 and 2, greater emphasis was placed on your comprehension skills.

In this and future lab assignments, you will be required to send your written work to me through email. **All written portions of a lab assignment should be sent to me in ONE email. The subject line of this email should contain your class level and module number, e.g. "ASL 3, Module 1".** Emails without this subject line will not receive proper credit.

Remember that your first order of business is to do your homework and study for your ASL 205 class. These suggested assignments are a guide to support your learning and improve your overall understanding and use of American Sign Language. Be sure to email me at least every other week to tell me about your progress in the lab. My email address is mbsmith@palomar.edu.

Each module is designed to take about three hours (some a little more and some a little less). If these assignments are not helpful to you, please send me an email with your feedback. Thanks!

1. Review vocabulary in Learning American Sign Language (LASL) Units 1-17. It is important for you to spend time reviewing the ASL signs that you have already learned and make sure they are memorized. One technique that students find helpful is to make flashcards by putting copies of the pictures in your book on one side of a 3 x 5 card and the English meaning on the other side of the card. Drill yourself on vocabulary until recognition of each sign is automatic.
2. Watch Units 18 and 19 on the Learning American Sign Language (LASL) videotape. Read the glossed representation of the signed dialogues provided in your textbook. Copy the signers until you are comfortable signing the dialogues on your own. Watch the signers

- again, paying particular attention to facial expression. Copy the signers again, making sure to copy their facial expressions.
3. Read the grammar and culture notes in Units 18-19 of LASL. Take notes on information that you learn. Study and practice using each grammatical feature that the textbook discusses (e.g. verbs that change movement to show subject and object, to show repetition or duration of the action, facial adverbs to show whether an action is done with intensity/effort, ease/lack of effort, care/diligence, or carelessness, different sign vocabulary for having a spoken versus a signed conversation, pluralizing nouns through repetition, etc.).
 4. Practice signing exercises in LASL Units 18-19. Although this is a review of information covered in your previous ASL classes, use this time to develop a solid understanding of the vocabulary and grammatical features included in these units before we move on.
 5. To familiarize yourself with the Signing Naturally text and videotape, read “Strategies for Learning American Sign Language” in Signing Naturally, Level 1 (p. vii). What tips do the authors suggest work best for learning ASL?
 6. View the videotape and do the workbook exercises in Unit 10 of Signing Naturally (SN). ***You will have to rewind several times in order to complete the exercises.*** Read “How to Use the Videotext and Workbook” on page vi for helpful tips. Remember to read the workbook instructions carefully and record your answers on a separate piece of paper. You do not need to understand every sign in this video; you only need to provide whatever information the workbook asks for. Check your answers in the back of the book. If you give more than two incorrect answers in any given section, watch the videotape again to figure out why you got it wrong, then turn your paper over and do the exercise again.
 7. Take good notes on the Culture/Language Notes in SN and keep the notes in your notebook to refer to throughout the semester.
 8. If you have completed these assignments and still have time, watch a videotape of your choice. Write down the name and producer of the

video and send a brief email to me at mbsmith@palomar.edu to tell me what you learned from the videotape.

9. To help design lab activities that will be most helpful to you, I need to know a little bit about who you are. Please write a paragraph or two about your signing background. Where did you take ASL 1 and 2? How long ago? Who were your teachers? What books did you use and what chapters did you complete in your previous ASL books? Are you taking an ASL class now? Who is your teacher? What book are you using? What chapters are you currently studying? Why do you want to learn ASL? What are your goals for this lab? Type your answers to these questions and email them to me at mbsmith@palomar.edu. If you completed this part of the lab assignment last week, you do not have to send it again.