Deaf People’s Lack of Accessibility to Health Services
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Introduction
American Sign Language (ASL) is a language signed by Deaf American individuals. There is a language barrier between the Deaf and hearing world. This barrier leads to miscommunication and harmful outcomes for the Deaf people. ASL interpreters help to alleviate this barrier. However, ASL interpreters are not always present. If the hearing world knew a little bit of Deaf culture this will help with miscommunication.

Communication between Medical Personal and Deaf Patients
When a Deaf person seeks medical treatment, they communicate one of three ways. The first is through a medical ASL interpreter. This is the preferred method. The second is through written communication. The third communication method is lipreading. Written communication and lip reading are inefficient because the grammar between ASL and spoken English differ making it difficult for a Deaf person to understand. Knowledge of ASL grammar will help with miscommunication.

ASL Interpreters in Medical Field
ASL interpreters are especially needed in a medical setting because this takes away the language barrier between the Deaf patient and the hearing doctor. When an ASL interpreter is present Deaf people feel that they have a better understanding of what is happening, and that their needs are met. Also, when ASL interpreter is present there are less harmful outcomes of Deaf patients becoming ill because of miscommunication on how to take prescribed medications.

Suggested Strategies for Medical Personnel
There are numerous ways that hearing medical personnel can accommodate Deaf individuals. To start off the ADA requires all medical facilities to provide an ASL interpreter for all Deaf individuals. Another strategy for medical personnel is to gain knowledge about ASL culture. Understanding ASL culture can help alleviate some of the language barrier between the hearing and Deaf world. The younger generation of Deaf individuals have taken to the use of smart phone and texting to help them communicate. However, older Deaf adults may use handwritten communication which can be hard with understanding the doctor’s penmanship.

Deaf Schools and Culture
Deaf schools are the heart of Deaf culture. Students usually stay near the schools and set up their lives near the schools. The students would stay close to the school so they could stay in contact and socialize with each other.

Training for ASL Interpreter
In the United States there are few four-year ASL interpreter training programs. When a student does decide to become an ASL Interpreter they go through rigorous program preparing them for their career. When the student completes the program, they must sit for a certification exam. Upon passing the certification exam, the individual can say he/she is a trained ASL interpreter.

Conclusion
This paper address how there is a need for more medically trained ASL interpreters. Also, this paper looked at different ways that the hearing world can help limit some of the barriers between the Deaf and hearing world. Furthermore, this paper looked at the crucial role that ASL interpreters play in the lives of both hearing and Deaf individuals.

References