

# OSD #WHYISIGN

(Signer's initials) Signer's comments

(Greg M :05-:19) #Why I Sign. I'm a deaf person. I need communication, and the best way to communicate is using ASL! The same is true at the deaf school where I work, I can sign with students, staff, and teachers!

(Chloe K :20-:49) Why I Sign? I'm a Koda! My brother signs, my parent's sign, my deaf brother and sisters sign, so we can all sign together fluently! We don't have any trouble understanding each other. We also have other family members who don't sign, and with them we have to communicate by typing on our phones, and passing that back and forth - communication is limited! Because of that, I don't feel like I know them as well. That's helped me realize how important ASL is - it's the key to having open communication in a family. ASL Rocks!

(Andrew K :50-1:00) Why I Sign? ASL is my primary language! Using ASL means that I understand who I'm communicating with and they understand me too! It makes me better able to interact with those around me.

(Phyllis M 1:01-1:44) You asked me why I sign? My eye's need access to visual input, my ears can't do that. Signing makes everything clear, helping me understand the world around me. I remember back when I was 12 years old, I was still in a mainstream school where we used the oral approach, I didn't understand my world then, I would say I was in the dark! Then when I went to the deaf school and saw people using ASL to communicate for the first time, my world just opened up, it was suddenly bright! As I got more exposure to ASL I gained access to language, and flourished! That's what aided me to become successful in life. If I hadn't taken to ASL, maybe I had stayed in that mainstream school, I might not have achieved everything that I have today.

(Bill E 1:45-2:04) Hello! #Why I Sign. Well, of course I do! First off, I'm Deaf, I was born Deaf. My parent's were Deaf too and first language was ASL. For all my life I've attended Deaf schools, interacted with other Deaf people, and the best communication access for me is through sign!

(Sylvia K 2:05-2:15) Why do I sign? Because I'm Deaf!

(Anthony CG 2:16-2:24) #Why I Sign? The reason why is because I value Deaf culture, history and the people who have used this beautiful language for so many years! I love the way it gives the community full access when used!

(Shannon C 2:25-2:35) Why I Sign? Because I've lived in a world with other signers, and what I've learned from them, now I understand things better.

(Pam E 2:36-2:54) Ok, Why I Sign. Obviously, for me I grew up in a Deaf family so it was my first language and since I attended a school for the deaf since I was 5 years old, I used sign there as well. My favorite thing about sign language, is you can sign and eat at the same time - my food never gets cold!

(Nate G 2:55-3:05) Why I Sign? I'm deaf, and my family is deaf too! I've been at the Deaf school for 4 years, ASL rocks!

(Brooke H 3:06-3:15) Why I Sign? I love learning about new cultures, new communities, and new places! I love the Deaf community too!

(Cody S 3:16-3:39) Hey there, I'm Cody. #Why I Sign. Because I feel I belong. I now belong to a community that I never experienced growing up, a culture I did not get to be a part of. Now that I sign, I do belong and that is why I sign.

(Mierra R 3:40-3:40) I sign because ASL is the best!

(Charisse H 3:41-3:54) #Why I Sign? It's my language! When using sign language with people, they can fully understand what I'm saying and I understand them fully too! ASL is a beautiful language that makes use of facial expression, and use of space. I think that's pretty cool!

(Dee M 3:55-4:05) #Why I Sign. I'm Deaf! I support deaf people and their use of ASL.

(Molly E 4:06-4:10) #Why I Sign. It's important that we can fully get each other's message when we're interacting for mutual understanding and effective communication!

(Malia S 4:11-4:45) I sign so I can communicate with my family, and so I can communicate with my friends in the community, and really anywhere I might meet Deaf people. Also, I sign because it's important to deaf people, so we can sign with each other, but also that we can sign fluently, right? Because ASL is our first language.

(Jessica S 4:46-4:59) #Why I Sign. I took an ASL class in college, and was really drawn to the language. I decided to volunteer in school that had Deaf students and just loved it! So now I'm more involved with Deaf culture and the people who use sign language.

(Tatum C 5:00-5:03) #Why I Sign. I was born Deaf! ASL is my first language and I come from a 6<sup>th</sup> generation Deaf family.

(Chris J 5:04-5:15) Oh! #Why I Sign? So I can effectively communicate and counsel students. It's about mutual understanding and meeting their needs.

(Felicia W 5:16-5:24) Hi! I'm Felicia. Why I Sign? I'm Deaf, and my whole family is Deaf, that's why!

(Lynda M 5:25-5:34) Why I Sign? I've had the opportunity to meet many cool and diverse Deaf people who use beautiful sign language. I love meeting people with such different personalities!

(Nancy B 5:35-6:40) I sign, because I value language. English is my first language, so of course that holds a special place for me, but honestly so does ASL! ASL is so beautiful, and so complex, it's just an amazing language! I feel it's important that Deaf children have access, and that's the most important reason, that ASL gives Deaf children 100% access to their world. That's really true for Deaf adults too, that they can have 100% access through this visual language! It's really critical that Deaf children have this access very early in their lives so their cognitive development can be on par with their hearing peers. In the same way that this is facilitated by hearing kids having access to

spoken English, Deaf children can have this facilitated by having access to ASL. The more they're able to learn to express themselves, the more experiences they'll be able to take advantage of in life, and the more life satisfaction they'll experience. That's huge! For Deaf children to have access, I feel it's really important that happens through sign.

(Kyla O 6:41-6:54) #Why I Sign. I grew up with hearing loss, so of course I sign! And I want to be able to communicate with people. For learning, ASL makes it easier to understand content! And... yeah... communication is key to me, that's why I sign!

(Seth H 6:55-7:03) Why I Sign? I'm deaf!

(Emily M 7:04-7:29) Hey! #Why I Sign. I was born Deaf, but I became Deaf when I was 18 months old. That's when my whole world changed because my language changed from spoken English, to ASL then. ASL is my language now. That's how I express my feelings, my ideas, and my thoughts.

(Bobbie H ) I sign because my parents re Deaf and I grew up with ASL as my first language. Now that I'm grown, I work with students here at the Ohio School for the Deaf.

(Alex B & Averie P) We sign because we're Deaf!

(Gianna W) #Why I Sign: I sign because I have a Deaf family. I go to OSD and I learn the alphabet and how to spell words with sign language. It's similar to other countries, where they have a different alphabet system. It's cool!

(Bob D-P) I sign because I'm Deaf and have grown-up signing. I started in a mainstream setting and went to a deaf residential school at the age of 9. I've been signing ever since and now I teach ASL to staff, parents and students. I'll use sign language for the rest of my life; I love it!

(Douglas C-B) I sign because I was born Deaf. My parents first got hearing aids for me and wanted me to learn to speak. It was difficult and I did not sign much until I came to OSD in 2008. I've acquired ASL as a language and made considerable improvements since coming to OSD. I can easily communicate with my friends and those around me here at OSD because we all sign.

(Kristy L) I sign because my parents are Deaf and I grew-up both signing and speaking. I'm a hearing CODA. I now work as a speech language pathologist here at OSD, encouraging the development of both languages, ASL and English, in our students.

(Jordan J) I love the Deaf community and sign language! Sometimes hearing people don't understand me and I'm proud that the Deaf people around me do. I prefer signing and communicating with people of the Deaf community.

(Elyssa W) #whyisign. I sign because I have a Deaf family, I attend a Deaf school, and because signing is the best!

(Gina W) I sign because I'm Deaf and my family is Deaf. My 3 children and my husband are Deaf as well as many extended family members. We have the ability to communicate and socialize

with ease. ASL is the best! It rocks and it the most amazing language! Here at OSD there are no communication barriers; we're able to easily communicate directly with each other or with interpreters. I just can't say it enough- it's beautiful!

(Shayna C) I sign because I grew up in a hearing school where no one signed and I had limited interactions; it was very disappointing. But when my Mom decided to enroll me at the Deaf school, I felt pride. There are other Deaf people here for me to communicate and interact with ... and so that's why I sign.

(Chris K) I come from a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Deaf family. I do also have some hearing family members but regardless of their ability to understand sign, I feel it's important to still communicate with them. They might not know sign language now but I can expose them to my language in the hopes they can acquire some words and use it from time to time. Of my 5 children, 3 are Deaf and 2 are hearing CODAs. The most important rule in our house is that regardless, ASL is used at all times. I also am staff here at OSD, meaning I can easily communicate with all students here, using ASL. It's imperative that ASL is used here! Comprehension is easier because students are taught directly in ASL. It's very inspiring to sign and my hope is the language will spread here as well as around the world.

(Donald P) I sign because I was born Deaf. Growing up, I didn't interact with Deaf people, only hearing, because I am the only Deaf person in my family. As I got older, I wanted to learn ASL so my Dad transferred me to the Deaf school. I feel more comfortable here because I can easily communicate with the people here; we understand each other. Learning is easier here than in a mainstream setting, to be honest, because I understand the teachers better. I like it here. I'm a senior now and will be graduating this year.

(Natalie F) #whyisign. Hi! My name is Natalie Frye and I work as a Youth Leader in the dorms. I sign because I'm Deaf. I grew up in an all-hearing family and started to learn sign language at the age of 3.