

ARE YOU SHOWING VIDEOS OR MOVIES IN YOUR CLASS?

Deaf and Hard of Hearing students do not have equal access to the classroom environment unless the course media materials are closed/open captioned. Here is some general information to guide you through the process of providing closed/open captioned material in the classroom.

What is closed captioning?

Closed captions are “hidden” unless they are made visible by a decoder or a TV with a decoder chip. A closed-captioned video/DVD/CD-Rom can be viewed either with or without captions. To be able to view the material with closed captions, a closed captioned decoder (available through IMT) must be hooked up to the TV. TV’s built after 1992 have a closed captioning chip built in (as required by law). Closed captioning can be turned on by using the remote control and menu functions in the TV.

Catalogues and film containers/jackets often show the closed captioned symbol. It is usually displayed on the side or the bottom of the back cover. The symbols may look like this:



They are usually white letters encased in a black box on the screen.

What is open captioning?

The captioning on open captioned media is displayed at all times regardless if the decoder is connected or the closed captioning is turned on. They are usually white letters with a black trim.

Subtitles are similar to open captions. However, subtitles in a foreign film do not often indicate information such as sound effects, speaker identification and other essential features for deaf and hard of hearing viewers.

DVD and DVD-ROMs may also have subtitles. If you plan to show a DVD that has English subtitles, you may turn them on by using the DVD remote control and going into the subtitles menu.

What if the video I plan to show is does not have closed/open captions? Do I need to change my course curriculum for the student?

No, you will not need to change the curriculum for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing student. Depending on the student’s accessibility needs, there could be several options:

- A sign language interpreter and/or C-Print captionist can interpret the video for the student. However, this is not the most ideal situation. It can become difficult for the

interpreter/captionist to follow the dialogue and for the student to watch both at the same time. If possible, let the interpreter/captionist know ahead of time that you plan on showing a video and share a copy with them to view beforehand.

- The student may ask to put the Assistive Listening Device (ALD) microphone near the speakers or the ALD transmitter can be connected directly to the rooms' sound system. IMT Classroom Technology Support can assist with this connection.
- Some classrooms may be equipped with Infrared Listening Devices. If you plan on showing a lot of movies in your classroom, special equipment may be available through the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program office.

Where can I find closed/open-captioned materials?

The following are comprehensive sources for captioned materials:

Classic Movies: <http://www.sivideo.com/caption.htm>

This website has a list of classic movies that are now available closed-captioned.

Captioned Media Program: <http://www.cfv.org>

The Captioned Media Program (CMP) provides free-loan open-captioned videos to deaf and hard of hearing individuals, their parents and teachers. The CMP is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is administered by the nonprofit National Association of the Deaf.

Suncoast Movies: <http://www.suncoast.com>

Suncoast Movies stores have catalogs that list details about each video, including open and closed captioning availability.

Blockbuster Video: <http://www.blockbuster.com>

Blockbuster Video has a wide selection of movies available to rent. Blockbuster also has an in-store catalog that lists open and closed-captioned movies that are available.

Who do I contact to arrange for the decoder or TV with closed captioning capabilities?

You can contact UWM's IMT Classroom Support Department at 229-5527. They will be able to assist you with your classroom needs. The equipment is provided free of charge.

Who else can benefit from closed/open captioned media?

Not only Deaf and Hard of Hearing students may benefit from open/captioned media. Students with learning disabilities and attention deficits may also benefit. Research has also shown that captions assist students who are learning the English language.

If you have additional questions, please contact Cassie Schellfeffer at cschel@uwm.edu.