



# Focused Inquiry Group Report



BCC Teaching and Learning Center

## Project title:

Team Leader: Jenny Gough

Other Participants: Iva Ikeda, Sandra Germinaro, and Gerardo DiPietro

1. What was your **final inquiry question**? If your question evolved over the course of the semester, please briefly describe how it changed.

**Our question is “How is interactive approach helpful in contributing towards the development of American Sign Language learning?”**

Before we tried with Flipgrid, our ASL instructors have faced number of challenges with students. The two main challenge issues are shown below:

1) Our ASL students from low socioeconomic status backgrounds find themselves challenge in many different ways. They also have a difficult time to maintain their learning and practice their second or third language, American Sign Language. Our ASL department does not provide fully support to our ASL students and their signing skills in their classroom and outside of classroom.

2) As part of students’ video projects and videos for their midterm and final exams- Our instructors request to tell their ASL stories and they had difficult time in using YouTube videos. The instructors have faced numbers of challenges by using YouTube videos to give feedback based on their signing. YouTube is not friendly tool for ASL instructors and students to use.

2. What **existing research** did you find on this topic? Please paste in at least 2 links, and briefly summarize.

Not Applicable (N/A)

3. What was your **primary research process**? Please attach or link any relevant documents or tools.

- I introduced and trained one of Flipgrid with my students. I provided several assignments for them. They recorded their videos. I viewed and shared my comments and/or suggestions based on their ASL skills. Most of the times, they decided to recorded themselves again. I continued to provide my comments and/or suggestions based on their signing skills.
- I started using the student feedback surveys via Google survey. And on their end, I wanted them to feel completely comfortable in sharing this type of feedback with us. Sending my surveys via web link was the perfect way to accomplish that.

- I sent surveys to my 63 students, I obtained 53 responses and we, the team analyzed data.
- Google Survey:  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/166KyTtEOSvqaP\\_1c3Slj2Lp5VJA5UXw2fwLD6BoCjCo/viewform#responses](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/166KyTtEOSvqaP_1c3Slj2Lp5VJA5UXw2fwLD6BoCjCo/viewform#responses)

4. Please describe your **key findings** (bullet points are fine). Include any of the following:

a. What patterns emerged?

I gathered 53 responses from my students.

**Question #1: How do you rate Flipgrid?**

- 30% excellent
- 68% good
- 2% poor

**Question #2: What are your reflections from your experience using the Flipgrid?**

- **8 out of 53-** At first it was difficult understanding how to log in but afterwards it was very user friendly.
- **15 out of 53-** I wish the record time length can be longer, not just less than 90 seconds
- **46 out of 53-** Positive experiences
  - It was a good experience
  - Fun tool to use
  - Great way to interact with the teacher
  - It's beneficial in the fact that we can practice, as well as, compare work with other students
  - It was very user friendly
  - Pretty easy interface
  - Good idea because you can watch and evaluate yourself after
  - It's a straight program that is easy to use
  - I can communicate and get feedback in a timely manner from my teacher/classmates
  - I can watch my videos as many as I want, so I can fix my mistake or make my sign better.
  - Effective as well as simple. Great method to practice and compare work with fellow student
  - I like that there is a platform that can be used to improve ASL development skills outside of the classroom, keep students and teacher connected.

- **1 out of 53**- Not Applicable (N/A)

**Question #3A: How does Flipgrid benefit you as an ASL student?**

- Flipgrid allows students to see ourselves signing which is important so that we can see what needs to be corrected
- Flipgrid allows students to redo the video several times if need to be
- They are able to communicate with their instructor, and show instructor what they have learned
- It gives the ability to get individual feedback
- It's easy to use and faster
- Get feedback was helpful
- It's helpful to demonstrate students' skills in a comfortable setting
- Flipgrid benefits in the way of at hours practice with a classroom feel
- Allows free zone for working on signs and self evaluate
- Make it easy to submit videos- no dealing with file exporting or attachment size

**Question #3B: How does Flipgrid NOT benefit you as an ASL student?**

- **43 out of 53** N/A
  - It's all beneficiary
  - I can't think of anything
- **2 out of 53** Record Themselves
  - Some students become unnerved at the idea of recording themselves so that is not easy
- **7 out of 53** 90 seconds
  - The record video time length needs to be longer
- **1 out of 53**
  - The layout of the video is awkward. It should be portrait style

**Question #4: Do you recommend Flipgrid to be integrated into our ASL program at Berkeley City College?**

- **51 out of 53** Yes, highly recommended
- **1 out of 53** Not sure
- **1 out of 53** No

**Question #5: Do you have any comments or suggestions regarding to our ASL program?**

- **53 out of 53** Positive comments
  - Great program! Immersive, effective, and gives you real ASL/Deaf culture skills.
  - Great progress! I feel the community is starting to better serve its passionate members and offer support!
  - I enjoy the class kept me engaged.
  - Nothing. It's great!
  - I couldn't ask for a better program.
  - I love it!
  - It's amazing!
  - I really appreciate the feedback given in the class I've taken from instructor.
  - I think it's awesome!
  - Very wonderful!
  - Love it! I think it's great. Feel lucky to be here!

b. What was surprising?

I'm surprised how much they love to use Flipgrid! At the same time, I'm not surprised how much Flipgrid benefit them in many ways regarding to their ASL skills. Especially, our ASL students from low socioeconomic status backgrounds find themselves challenge and they are able to maintain learning and practicing their second language, which is ASL at home and/or outside of classroom.

c. What has led you to ask additional questions?

We wanted to hear their perspectives and experiences based on Flipgrid. We heard from ASL students about what are the benefits of technology for an education. There are many, but most fall under few categories: provide more supports to ASL students, maintain learning and practicing ASL skills outside of the classroom and/or at their homes, and provide better technology service to students. The results would assist us to see if FG is worth for students to use that support their ASL skills.

d. What has impacted your thinking and work?

We are considering to having our ASL department offers technology for our ASL students. It's critical for our ASL instructors to provide their fully support to our students and fully support to our students to maintain their ASL skills outside of our classrooms.

e. How do your findings relate to the existing research you found on this topic?

Not Applicable (N/A)

5. Based on your key findings, secondary research, and discussion, what **recommendations** did you develop? *(It's helpful if some of these are specific enough for you or other people to take up as an APPLE and/or DART in the future).*

We believe we should incorporate technology in our classrooms/outside of our classrooms to support students' ASL skills. Without technology, they have difficult time to practice ASL at their homes, and they face challenge by finding extra money to pay their ASL tutors. They can't continue with their ASL tutoring service because they can't afford it. As we mentioned from above, Flipgrid benefits my ASL students in many ways and they are able to maintain their ASL skills. It's significant for our ASL program provides technology to support our students' signing skills in classroom and outside of the classroom.

6. What other ideas or areas of **possible future inquiry** does your inquiry suggest?

- Explore more video softwares to see which one is benefit our ASL students and our instructors to support students' ASL skills.
- We believe that all departments at BCC should try and use FG for their students. It benefits them in many different ways. For example, instructors are able to create questions or topics using text or video and share their questions or topics with their students. Their students will responds with recorded videos or texts. FG boosts community and collaborations in classrooms,

7. What **connections/questions/applications** arose through sharing with other colleagues at the colloquium?

Not Applicable (N/A)

8. Who should know about your findings and what will you do with your recommendations? *(PIE committee, curriculum committee, department colleagues, other departments?)*

- *All of them!*
- *We will share our findings and results with our ASL instructors from other K-12/HS/Colleges/Universities*