

TICA TERP TIPS

CHIA Conference 2022 Presentation Notes

By Marisa Rueda Will, CHI – ticatrainingandtranslations.com

Session Recap:

*Intentional Practice:
Guided Self Evaluation
to Advance Your
Interpreting Skills*

By Danielle Meder &
Sarah Stockler-Rex

Presented at CHIA
2022 Conference

How to Self-Evaluate

Sarah and Danielle knocked this session out of the park. Aside from being entertaining speakers, they provided a wealth of knowledge on self-evaluation, including a formula interpreters can use to track their progress and tips for how to debrief with colleagues about the *soft skills* needed to do the job. Here is what I learned:

Dos and Don'ts of Debriefing

Every interpreter should have a self-evaluation routine. Whether you are reflecting on your own work or debriefing with a colleague about their performance, use advocacy and inquiry questions to guide the conversation.

Q: What are advocacy and inquiry questions?

A: Open-ended questions that make the speaker reflect on what happened without passing judgment.

Q: What are some examples of A and I questions?

A: What went well? Why do you think it was a difficult encounter? What would you do differently? Do you want to hear what I might have done?

New Self-Evaluation Tool Coming Soon!

Danielle, Sarah, and some colleagues are writing a book entitled *The Remote Interpreter*, which will be released later this year. It has a self-evaluation tool, tips on positioning, and advice on how interpreters should advocate for what they need during the session. How many of you have ever taken a video call and then had the tablet placed facing the ceiling? Well, Danielle and Sarah have tips for us, starting with asking for what we need and not apologizing for it.

Danielle started out the session by saying that if there was one point to take home from their talk it was to “Stop saying ‘I’m sorry’ [for] doing our job.”

Q: How should an interpreter intervene without apologizing?

A: By stating the facts. “The interpreter is unfamiliar with that term. The interpreter needs the [x] to repeat what was just said. The interpreter needs the iPad faced toward the patient.

“Stop saying, ‘I’m sorry.’ We don’t apologize for doing our job.”

- Danielle Meder

How Does Regular Self-Evaluation Make You a Better Interpreter?

- Your enhanced soft skills will make you more transparent during encounters
- You will learn to “use your power” to ask for what you need to do your job the right way (See Wonder Woman below for inspiration)

