

Impactful For the Deaf Community: How American Sign
Language Changed Communication Over Time

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Historical Paper

Length: 1,894 Words

Even though we can all communicate with our mouths and listen with our ears, sign language could also be a way of communicating with others. Sign language is when you can communicate with others through hand motions, gestures, and body movements. Although the exact origins of sign language are unclear, the very first formal sign language education in the United States began in 1817. This came with the establishment of what is now known as the American School for the Deaf which is located in Hartford, Connecticut.¹ American sign language was borrowed from the French model and was modified to make it more English and invented a few signs to show the distinction.² Some examples include the way they describe gender, articles, and/or prepositions. Sign language was the key to understanding and it improved communication over time.

How American Sign Language Differs From English:

American sign language is different from regular English because “it contains all the fundamental features a language needs to function on its own—it has its own rules for grammar, punctuation, and sentence order.”³ When asking a question, a person would ask it by raising the pitch of their voices and by adjusting their word order while ASL users ask a question by raising their eyebrows, widening their eyes, and tilting their bodies forward.⁴ Another example is that in English words, they can have double meanings while in American sign language, there’s no double meaning but are

¹ “Brief History Of ASL In Deaf Education” <https://www.britannica.com/topic/American-Sign-Language>

² Ibid.

³ “How Does American Sign Language Compare With Spoken Language?”
https://www.medicinenet.com/sign_language/article.htm

⁴ “How does ASL compare with spoken language?”
<https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/american-sign-language>

expressed with two different signs.⁵ Furthermore, one ASL sign can express an entire sentence while in English it would need more words.⁶

American sign language word orders would differ from regular conversations/orders. Normal conversations would follow a subject-verb-object or a subject-verb order while ASL would not use BE verbs or anything that indicates being.⁷ For example, when you are using a subject as a topic (what you are talking about) then you are using an active voice.⁸ The active voice is in subject-verb-object word order, for example, boy throw ball, English translation: the boy threw the ball.⁹ However, when you use an object as a topic, then you would use a passive voice.¹⁰ The passive voice would then be in an object, subject-verb word order, for example, ball, boy throw, English translation: the ball was thrown by the boy.¹¹

Why Sign Language Should be Emphasized in Early Learning:

American sign language should be emphasized in early learning because it is beneficial for the child. Sign language should be taught in early childhood because when you are a child, you would become exposed to the language and begin to acquire it.¹² This would cause the child's communication skills to grow and become better and stronger.¹³ They would also have an easier time expressing their needs through their body gestures and pointing to indicate communication.¹⁴ It should be

⁵ "What is sign language?" <https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/what-sign-language>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ "ASL Word Order" <https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/grammar.htm>

⁸ Ibid

⁹ "ASL Word Order" <https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/grammar.htm>

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ "ASL Word Order" <https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/grammar.htm>

¹² "Why Emphasize Early Language Learning?" https://www.medicinenet.com/sign_language/article.htm#_why_emphasize_early_language_learning

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ "Benefits of American Sign Language to Children" page 2 on pdf but page 46 on book <https://www.childcareexchange.com/library/5017658.pdf>

emphasized in early learning because there are results that indicate that 6-month-old infants prefer an unfamiliar, visual-gestural language, American sign language, over a non-linguistic imitation, while 10-month-olds do not.¹⁵ Sign language should be focused on in early learning/age because it can create a brain boost/a brain development in specific areas. Some of these areas would be in communication, bonding, attention, and visual learning.¹⁶

The Importance Of Sign Language and Is It a Universal Sign?:

Sign language is important because studying sign language can promote a better awareness of and understanding towards the deaf and hard of hearing community.¹⁷ It can help you be prepared whenever you are unexpectedly facing a deaf person and need to talk to them. It is also important because you can get an insight on how the deaf culture is and you can get a cultural enrichment, challenge one's own cultural assumptions, values, and perspectives to contribute positively to society.¹⁸

Even though American sign language is used often and is important, it is not a universal sign. Every country has their own sign language and every region has their own dialect.¹⁹ When you communicate with someone in sign language you will notice that they will have some signs that differ from you and this is known as "regional" signs.²⁰ This could also be known as a type of "accent".²¹ There are hundreds of sign

¹⁵ "Abstract" <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18171360/>

¹⁶ "Benefits of American Sign Language to Children" page 2 on pdf but page 46 on book <https://www.childcareexchange.com/library/5017658.pdf>

¹⁷ "Culture" <https://www.leadwithlanguages.org/lwl-language/american-sign-language/>

¹⁸ "The Benefits of American Sign Language" <http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/the-benefits-of-american-sign-language.htm>

¹⁹ "Learning American Sign Language" <https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/learning-american-sign-language/>

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Learning American Sign Language" <https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/learning-american-sign-language/>

languages that have appeared independently wherever there are significant numbers of deaf people together.²² This is why there is American sign language, Danish sign language, Chinese, Mayan, and French sign languages.²³ There are actually more than fifty sign languages around the world.²⁴ Like all languages though, “American sign language is a living language that grows and changes over time.”²⁵

Misconceptions About American Sign Language:

Even though American sign language is one of the most widely used languages in the United States and the fourth-most studied second language at American universities²⁶, there are a few common misconceptions about it. One misconception is that American sign language is mostly like British sign language.²⁷ Although they do share spoken English as their predominant language, their sign languages vary greatly.²⁸ Actually, “American sign language got its roots from French sign language while British sign language has had a greater influence on the development of Australian Auslan and New Zealand sign languages.”²⁹ Another misconception is that “lip reading is an effective alternative to learning sign language.”³⁰ “It’s estimated that only 30% of English can be read on the lips by a deaf person.”³¹ It is said that although the speaker is fluent in American sign language, it is very unlikely that

²² “A Universal sign?” <https://linguistics.byu.edu/classes/Ling450ch/reports/sign-language.html>

²³ Ibid

²⁴ “A Universal sign?” <https://linguistics.byu.edu/classes/Ling450ch/reports/sign-language.html>

²⁵ “What Is American Sign Language?”

<https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/what-is-american-sign-language/>

²⁶ “Communication” <https://www.leadwithlanguages.org/lwl-language/american-sign-language/>

²⁷ “Misconception #3: ASL is Most Like British Sign Language”

<http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/information-referral/american-sign-language.php>

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ “Misconception #3: ASL is Most Like British Sign Language”

<http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/information-referral/american-sign-language.php>

³⁰ “Misconception #5: Lip Reading Is an Effective Alternative to Learning Sign Language”

<http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/information-referral/american-sign-language.php>

³¹ Ibid.

they would be fluent in lip reading because of how it's not effective due to it being a one way method of communication and that it can take years of practice to do it.³² An important misconception is that American sign language is "English on the hands".³³ This is a misconception because ASL has little in common with English and has its own unique sentence structure and symbols for various words and ideas.³⁴ For example, the key features of American sign language are: hand shapes, palm orientations, hand movements, hand locations, and gestural features like facial expressions and posture.³⁵

The History Of American Sign Language:

Throughout history, American sign language and the deaf people were not in the good books of society. During Ancient Greek, the philosopher Aristotle, asserted that deaf men in all cases were dumb.³⁶ In the early 1500s, the deaf community were overlooked, neglected, and disrespected because of how they were unable to communicate with the world.³⁷ This treatment soon ended when Geronimo Cardano declared that the deaf community should be taken care of and educated on how to communicate.³⁸

Geronimo Cardano was a 16th century Italian scholar of speech and voice and thought that the deaf could communicate through the use of signs. He thought that

³² "Misconception #5: Lip Reading Is an Effective Alternative to Learning Sign Language"

<http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/information-referral/american-sign-language.php>

³³ "Misconception #1: ASL is "English On the Hands"

<http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/information-referral/american-sign-language.php>

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ "Misconception #1: ASL is "English On the Hands"

<http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/information-referral/american-sign-language.php>

³⁶ <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2019/05-06/creation-of-sign-language/>

³⁷ "American Sign Language: Past, Present, and Future" by Jacob Lewis 4/29/03

<https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/history3.htm>

³⁸ Ibid.

even though it was hard, it was possible through gestures.³⁹ Although he believed that it was possible, “Cardano invented a code for teaching deaf people to read but did not pursue it.”⁴⁰

Since Geronimo Cardano came up with the idea of signs but did not pursue it, Juan Pablo Bonet was compelled to “create and publish the first book on sign language in 1620.”⁴¹ “He became interested in ways to support people with hearing impairment because he was in the service of the Governor of Castile, whose younger brother was hearing impaired. It wasn’t until 1885 that Bonet’s book “*Simplification of the letters of the alphabet and method of teaching deaf-mutes to speak*” was published.”⁴²

In the 18th century, Charles Michel de L’Epée, using his father’s house and his own funds, established the first free school for the deaf.⁴³ He was a Jansenist who “was banned from preaching but found his vocation by chance when he met two deaf girls who were being taught through pictures. He felt that faith and salvation should

³⁹ A History of Speech - Language Pathology Early Modern Period - The Renaissance: 1500 - 1700 AD Jerome Cardan (English version) Girolamo or Geronimo Cardano (Italian version) Hieronymus Cardanus (Latin version) 1501-1576 https://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~duchan/new_history/early_modern/cardan.html

⁴⁰ “A History of Speech - Language Pathology Early Modern Period - The Renaissance: 1500 - 1700 AD Jerome Cardan (English version) Girolamo or Geronimo Cardano (Italian version) Hieronymus Cardanus (Latin version) 1501-1576” https://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~duchan/new_history/early_modern/cardan.html

⁴¹ “American Sign Language: Past, Present, and Future” by Jacob Lewis 4/29/03 <https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/history3.htm>

⁴² “A History of Speech - Language Pathology Early Modern Period - The Renaissance: 1500 - 1700 AD Juan Pablo Bonet 1579-1633” https://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~duchan/new_history/early_modern/bonet.html

⁴³ “The codification of sign language syntax, formation of a curriculum and open access: 18th and 19th centuries” https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Robert_Ruben2/publication/7666896_Sign_language_its_history_and_contribution_to_the_understanding_of_the_biological_nature_of_language/links/00463525933e4d0efe000000/Sign-language-its-history-and-contribution-to-the-understanding-of-the-biological-nature-of-language.pdf?origin=publication_detail

not be dependent on hearing and could be achieved through signs.”⁴⁴ “This was the first state-sponsored school for the deaf that was open to all.”⁴⁵

The Deaf Community and How American Sign Language Impacted Communication:

At first, people thought that the deaf people/deaf community couldn't be educated but as the deaf people continued to expand and use sign language, it was getting more developed and popular over time. Now people today realize that this was not true and it became a source of communication for a lot of people.

“The American Deaf community values American Sign Language as the core of a culturally Deaf identity.”⁴⁶ They also share a common history, value, moral, and experience. American sign language not only connects the deaf people together but it serves as a membership card into a linguistic subculture of their society and that not everyone is privileged to enjoy.⁴⁷ “Deaf culture is important because it allows individuals to be who they are,” O'Banion explained, “and live in a way that is unique to them. There's more to a person than whether or not they can hear, so don't just focus on their ears.”⁴⁸ The language is so complicated, that some members of the Deaf culture say that they can identify when a person learned ASL simply by observing the way they sign.⁴⁹ Bahan and Jokinen provided a look at the Deaf community that is based on Deaf

⁴⁴ “The codification of sign language syntax, formation of a curriculum and open access: 18th and 19th centuries”

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Robert_Ruben2/publication/7666896_Sign_language_its_history_and_contribution_to_the_understanding_of_the_biological_nature_of_language/links/00463525933e4d0efe000000/Sign-language-Its-history-and-contribution-to-the-understanding-of-the-biological-nature-of-language.pdf?origin=publication_detail

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ “What is Deaf Culture?” <https://www.handsandvoices.org/comcon/articles/deafculture.htm>

⁴⁷ “The Importance of Deaf Culture” <https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52285-The-importance-of-deaf-culture>

⁴⁸ “Audism and Oralism” <https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52285-The-importance-of-deaf-culture>

⁴⁹ “American Sign Language (ASL)” <https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52285-The-importance-of-deaf-culture>

values and perspectives, and said that they don't focus on the inability to hear but instead they classified the deaf people as seeing people and sign language persons who upheld positive traits that were valued and cherished.

American sign language impacted communication because it provided the deaf people with two most important elements in their lives: communication and culture. It allowed them to be/feel "equal" and not discriminated/feel like they were lacking in anything just because they couldn't hear.⁵⁰ Sign language made the deaf people/people in the community feel a sense of belonging and that they felt like they were home.⁵¹

Conclusion:

Overall, American sign language changed communication over a period of time because of how much it evolved and became a full language by adding/creating more signs. It evolved from the borrowing of French models to create/invent their own signs and made it more English.⁵² It changed communication over time because now the deaf people have their own way of communicating which was through the motions of their hands, body, and facial expressions. They didn't feel discriminated against anymore and felt comfortable within the Deaf community.⁵³

They had their own rules for grammar, punctuation, and sentence order which is how it differs from regular English.⁵⁴ Learning American sign language from childhood/early on can change communication over time because as that child is learning sign language, they are developing/learning a new language and will acquire

⁵⁰ "Breaking down Stigmas" <https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52285-The-importance-of-deaf-culture>

⁵¹ "What is Deaf Culture?" <https://www.handsandvoices.org/comcon/articles/deafculture.htm>

⁵² "Brief History Of ASL In Deaf Education" <https://www.britannica.com/topic/American-Sign-Language>

⁵³ "Breaking down Stigmas" <https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52285-The-importance-of-deaf-culture>

⁵⁴ "How Does American Sign Language Compare With Spoken Language?" https://www.medicinenet.com/sign_language/article.htm

it.⁵⁵ They will get a boost in their brain which will help them in the future with their interactions, bondings, and attention.⁵⁶ ASL changes communication because as we study it, we will have a grasp on how they feel everyday and how they interact with each other better. Although ASL changes communication over time, it is not a universal sign since each country has their own sign.⁵⁷ As each country has their own sign/language, they're misconceptions that happen as well. For example, how ASL was claimed to have roots that came from the British when actually it came from the roots of France.⁵⁸ Comprehensively, sign language created a positive change for the deaf people and made them feel part of the society instead of them feeling left out.

⁵⁵ "Why Emphasize Early Language Learning?"

https://www.medicinenet.com/sign_language/article.htm#_why_emphasize_early_language_learning

⁵⁶ "Benefits of American Sign Language to Children" page 2 on pdf but page 46 on book

<https://www.childcareexchange.com/library/5017658.pdf>

⁵⁷ "Learning American Sign Language"

<https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/learning-american-sign-language/>

⁵⁸ Misconception #3: ASL is Most Like British Sign Language"

<http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/information-referral/american-sign-language.php>

Annotated Bibliography:

Primary Sources:

Mid-Term Paper:

A History of Sign Language by Brook Larson, Dr. Hallen February 24, 1998

["https://linguistics.byu.edu/classes/Ling450ch/reports/sign-language.html"](https://linguistics.byu.edu/classes/Ling450ch/reports/sign-language.html)

This mid-term paper talked about the history behind ASL and the migration of French signs to the US. It also talked about the beginnings of the American sign language and if it was universal or not. I just took a bit of the information from this source because the rest of the paper didn't have the information I needed. I also got a bit of an understanding of where American sign language came from.

A Book but in a Website:

American Sign Language: A New Strategy to Integrate into Your Current Teaching Practices by Jennings Prevatte, July/August 2007

["https://www.childcareexchange.com/library/5017658.pdf"](https://www.childcareexchange.com/library/5017658.pdf)

This website talks about the benefits of American sign language and how it's good for a child's brain, how it can develop and how their communication can become better and stronger. This website gave me a better understanding of why children should learn sign language from an early age.

An Original Article:

Sign language: Its history and contribution to the understanding of the biological nature of language by ROBERT J. RUBEN Department of Otolaryngology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Montefiore Medical Center, Bronx, New York, USA

["https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Robert_Ruben2/publication/7666896_Sign_language_Its_history_and_contribution_to_the_understanding_of_the_biological_nature_of_language/links/00463525933e4d0efe000000/Sign-language-Its-history-and-contribution-to-the-understanding-of-the-biological-nature-of-language.pdf?origin=publication_detail"](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Robert_Ruben2/publication/7666896_Sign_language_Its_history_and_contribution_to_the_understanding_of_the_biological_nature_of_language/links/00463525933e4d0efe000000/Sign-language-Its-history-and-contribution-to-the-understanding-of-the-biological-nature-of-language.pdf?origin=publication_detail)

This article talks about the different time periods and the different people, important and rude, towards the deaf community. It talks about what inspired them and led them to

doing this. This helped me understand better on who these people were and what made them help the deaf community out. It also gave me a better understanding of how old/long sign language was.

Secondary Sources:

Websites:

American Sign Language Communications written by Erik Drasgow

[“https://www.britannica.com/topic/American-Sign-Language”](https://www.britannica.com/topic/American-Sign-Language)

This was one of the first websites that I found that helped me find the history of American sign language. It described how the origin was unclear but this website told me when the first formal education of sign language in the United States happened and the school along with it. It gave me a better understanding of what was happening and how it came to be.

American Sign Language: Grammar

[“https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/grammar.htm”](https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/grammar.htm)

This website helped me learn more about the American sign language grammar and the word order along with a few examples of it to get a better understanding.

Benefits of Learning Sign Language At An Early age:

[“https://www.leadwithlanguages.org/lwl-language/american-sign-language/”](https://www.leadwithlanguages.org/lwl-language/american-sign-language/)

This website helped me get a better understanding of how much people in school and work used sign language. It also helped me get a better understanding of the career opportunities it has/gives, some information about the culture, and communication.

The Benefits of American Sign Language By Dale Gross, November 29, 2010

[“http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/the-benefits-of-american-sign-language.htm”](http://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/topics/the-benefits-of-american-sign-language.htm)

This website helped me get a better understanding of what learning a new language could do to your brain. I also learned that it could make your child smarter when they learn another language and that sign language can create a bridge for communication.

Learning American Sign Language

[“https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/learning-american-sign-language/”](https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/learning-american-sign-language/)

This website helped me understand why American sign language was not universal. It also helped me get a better understanding of sign language and how slowing down isn't always wrong so you don't have to get embarrassed by it. I also learned that there are many places where we can learn ASL from.

What Is American Sign Language?

[“https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/what-is-american-sign-language/”](https://www.nad.org/resources/american-sign-language/what-is-american-sign-language/)

Although this website might be similar to the one above, this one talks about what you should expect in ASL. It explains how ASL means that you are interacting with your body movements, facial expressions, and hand gestures. It also talks about American sign language not being universal. From this website, I got a bit of understanding of what sign language was.

Preference for language in early infancy: the human language bias is not speech specific by Ursula C. Krentz and David P Corina

[“https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18171360/”](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18171360/)

This website talks about how 6-month-old infants would choose sign language than 10-month-old infants. This helped me understand that it depends on how old the infant is and that the younger the infant is the more they like visuals than regularly speaking.

Sign Language: Get Facts on American Sign Language

[“https://www.medicinenet.com/sign_language/article.htm#what_is_american_sign_language”](https://www.medicinenet.com/sign_language/article.htm#what_is_american_sign_language)

This website talks about many different things, it has many different subtopics. This website starts talking from what American sign language is to what recent researches say about American sign language and other sign languages. This website helped me

understand many things including that no form of sign language is universal, that most of American sign language came from French sign language, that American sign language is different from regular English, why it became a first language for many deaf people, and why deaf children should be introduced to sign language earlier.

American Sign Language, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, May 8th, 2019

[“https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/american-sign-language”](https://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/american-sign-language)

This website talks all about American sign language. It tells you what it is, that there are mixed elements of French sign language, that there are languages that are the same as ASL, and that every country has a different language too. It talks about how ASL is a completely separate language and how most kids learn it. I learned a lot from this website including the research they have.

What Is Sign Language by David M. Perlmutter

[“https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/what-sign-language”](https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/what-sign-language)

This website talks about how American sign language doesn't have a double sign for double meaning words. They would have 2 different signs for one word and I found this interesting because if we have a word with double meaning we can put the one that makes the most sense but for ASL you would have to make a completely new sign.

American Sign Language- Rhode Island- Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Executive Department/Established in 1977. Restructured in 1992

[“http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/information-referral/american-sign-language.php”](http://www.cdhh.ri.gov/information-referral/american-sign-language.php)

This website talks about the misconceptions of American sign language. This website shows 5 different ones but I already added the other information in my paragraphs, so I only used a bit of the misconceptions on here. This made me have a better understanding of how sign language could be easily misinterpreted and how we can understand it more better.

Hands & Voices:: Communication Considerations Deaf Culture and Community

[“https://www.handsandvoices.org/comcon/articles/deafculture.htm”](https://www.handsandvoices.org/comcon/articles/deafculture.htm)

This website talks about the deaf community and how it describes what the deaf community is. I used this website for my last body paragraph and it was filled with information such as how they finally found a nice environment to stay in and how it felt like home. I got a better understanding of how the deaf community felt.

The Importance of Deaf Culture *Contributed by Debbie Clason, staff writer, Healthy Hearing*

Last updated December 24, 2019

[“https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52285-The-importance-of-deaf-culture”](https://www.healthyhearing.com/report/52285-The-importance-of-deaf-culture)

This website talks about the Deaf community, how they felt, how they were a mainstream group and didn't like people who treated them like they were lacking something just because they couldn't hear. I used this website because it described the deaf group really well and it showed how important this group was. This website gave me a better understanding of how the deaf people felt and how important they were.

American Sign Language: Roots and History By Geoffrey Poor '74

[“https://vq.vassar.edu/issues/2003/02/features/american-sign-language.html”](https://vq.vassar.edu/issues/2003/02/features/american-sign-language.html)

This website talks more specifically about the roots and some history of ASL. It talks about how France was connected to American sign language, American beginnings on sign language, the problems that were faced, and the modern resurgence of ASL. I didn't really use this website as much but I compared my details once in a while to it. I did this because it had a few details on Abbe Charles Michel de l'Epee and his story. It gave me a better understanding of his life and how he helped the deaf community out.

American Sign Language at Harvard Linguistics Department Deaf History Timeline

[“https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/asl/deaf-history-timeline”](https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/asl/deaf-history-timeline)

This website involved a specific order of dates and events, and what happened on those dates. It talks about the people who invented things, the rehabilitation act, the beginnings and ends of some processes, and how the legislation started the

mainstreaming of deaf people. I didn't really use this website but I did look at it a lot. I thought that this was interesting. I ended up getting a better understanding of the events that followed along sign language.

American Sign Language: ASL History by William G. Vicars, Ed.D. Jan 1, 2001

["https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/history1.htm"](https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/history1.htm)

This website talks about a brief history of American sign language. It talked about Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet and what he did for the deaf community. I didn't get to use this website but I did go over the details. It was interesting and gave me a better understanding of what he did/who he met and how he helped improve ASL.

American Sign Language: Deaf History

American Sign Language: Past, Present and Future by Jacob Lewis 4/29/03

["https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/history3.htm"](https://www.lifeprint.com/asl101/pages-layout/history3.htm)

This website talks about the past, present, and future of American sign language. I only used the past part of the website to get a bit of history behind sign language and how it was being improved. It gave me a better understanding of what was happening/what happened and how sign language improved over time.

A History of Speech - Language Pathology Early Modern Period - The Renaissance:

1500 - 1700 AD Jerome Cardan (English version) Girolamo or Geronimo Cardano

(Italian version) Hieronymus Cardanus (Latin version) 1501-1576

https://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~duchan/new_history/early_modern/cardan.html

This website talks about Geronimo Cardano's life and what he did for the deaf community. He invented a code for teaching the deaf people but didn't pursue it. I found this website interesting because it had a few details about his life and his writing pieces but it didn't specify why he didn't pursue his idea. Instead, I got a better understanding of who he was as a person.

A History of Speech - Language Pathology Early Modern Period - The Renaissance:
1500 - 1700 AD Juan Pablo Bonet 1579-1633

https://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~duchan/new_history/early_modern/bonet.html

This website talks about Juan Pablo Bonet's life and how he improved/changed the lives of the deaf people. He created a book on the alphabet with images on how to make the signs, making the deaf people communicate easily. This website helped me understand more about Juan Pablo Bonet's writing pieces, his life, and what inspired him to help out the deaf community.