Capstone Project
Dr. Renee' Shellum, AuD

“Dimensions of Deafness”
Critical Thinking
About Dimensions of Deafness:

- Elective course
- 1st year offered/taught
- 25 students
- Speech Language Pathology and Audiology students
- 8 juniors and 17 seniors
Dimensions of Deafness

- Main objectives of course:
  - Students differentiate between deaf and Deaf
  - Recognize the medical “take” on hearing loss/deafness and the Deaf Cultures attitude
  - Understand the debate on Cochlear Implants-pros and cons
First Day of Class...

• “If you had a child that was born deaf and you could be given the opportunity to help them hear...would you?”

• “Should a deaf child be in a oral school system so they can learn to speak?”

• “Does the Deaf Culture want to communicate with the Hearing Culture?”
Classroom materials

• “you think deaf people have problems”
  - DVD-anti-hearing person message
• “Bridges of Silence”
  - DVD- humorously and sentimentally showing difficulties in communication for deaf persons
Classroom material

- On-line videos, VHS tapes of cochlear implants and their benefits as presented by the cochlear implant companies

- Videos of Parents/children and the benefits of oral education with Cochlear Implants as presented by a CI company and an Oral Education institution
Active learning modules

• Reaction Paper—immediately following each DVD

• Classroom discussion—comparing and contrasting the DVD’s attitudes toward “hearies” and deaf people
Active Learning

• Reaction Paper to the DVD’s and videos and the companies testimonials

• On-line search of the various CI companies, patient education availability and testimonials-discussion of each company and information available
Classroom material

• DVD-“the sound and the fury
  - A controversial documentary of families debating on the pros and cons of the cochlear implant and the impact on the Deaf community-as told by deaf and hearing families
Active learning

• Visit www.alldeaf.com forum to “listen in” on the deaf perspectives on audiologist, speech language pathologists, and cochlear implants

• Each student picks a discussion from the forum that they were most surprised with or disagree with and presents it to the class for discussion
Grand Finale...

• The movie- “Children of a Lesser God”

  - A hearing SLP works at an Oral school for deaf high school students and meets a deaf woman who is the janitor...the debate over speaking v/s sign, hearing world v/s deaf culture is of the main focus of the movie...
Active Learning

• Reaction paper
• Questions derived from the movie
• Class discussion of the questions
• Break into groups and answer the following question...
  - Why do you think they named the movie “Children of a Lesser God?”
Last Day

• Hand back First Day questions and have the students reflect on their answers now, did they change? Were they made stronger?

• How will this information help you in the future, either professionally or personally.
• The End...