

What is MAP?

The Media Accessibility Project's purpose is to address accessibility of audio-video course content. MAP has three main purposes: to provide an audio and video captioning service



for use by deaf and hard of hearing students, to provide transcripts of audio-video materials for use by students with

learning disabilities, and to provide audio description for videos for use by visually impaired students. MAP provides training to campus DS/AT staff and other relevant parties on best practices in this area, as well as provide support and education.



Goals and objectives:

- Provide an audio and video captioning service to rapidly provide a/v captioning for use by deaf and hard of hearing students
- Provide transcripts of a/v materials for use by students with learning disabilities
- Provide audio description for videos for use by visually impaired students
- Provide training to campus DS/AT staff and other relevant parties on best practices in this area
- Develop an online archive of resources for dissemination

Funding for the Media Accessibility Project is provided by the Council on Student Disability Issues (COSDI).



Media
Accessibility
Project



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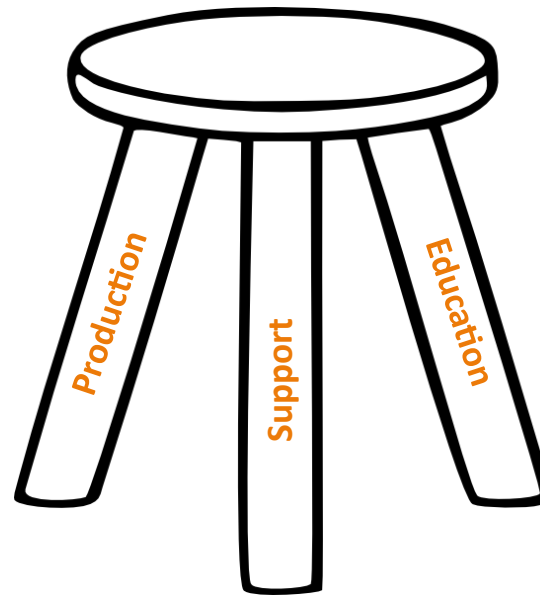
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Importance of Captioning

Captioning makes videos accessible not only to those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or learning disabled but to everyone as well.

Making videos accessible helps those who are learning a new language, those who cannot turn up the volume (such as being in a library), and those who are in a noisy area and do not have access to headphones. By broadening your audience, you are making your videos accessible to all in any environment. Also, viewing captions on videos helps the viewer's engagement, comprehension, and retention of information.

Part of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires captioning of multimedia products. In addition, colleges, universities, and other post-secondary programs must provide effective communication for deaf and hard-of-hearing students to continue to receive federal funding. Lecture capture recordings, academic materials, or anything else that is being used in class must be made accessible to students with disabilities and provide equal opportunity to those without disabilities.



MAP will:

- Caption your videos, create transcripts, and move into audio description
- Train you, provide software and tech support, and serve as a resource of information and tools
- Raise awareness across CUNY

BEST PRACTICES FOR DESIGNING ACCESSIBLE COURSES IN BLACKBOARD

- Avoid large blocks of italic text
- Use relative font sizes in your html
- Avoid moving, blinking, and auto-refreshing text
- Avoid using large blocks of capitalization
- If an image is essential, insert meaningful textual description
- Take care with animated images
- Don't underline large blocks of text
- Use headings appropriately
- Avoid using more than 10 links on an individual page
- Don't use 'click here' for a link

*adapted from <http://info.uwe.ac.uk/online/Blackboard/staff/guides/accessibleContent.asp>