Frequently Asked Questions about Captioning

1. **Why do I need to have electronic materials with captioning?**
   Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, 1998 and SB 105, mandates that all electronic and information technology developed, procured, and maintained by a community college district using any source of State funds must be accessible to people with disabilities.

2. **What is the cost to get videos captioned?**
   It depends on the length of the video and whether or not it needs to be sent to an outside vendor. The college/department will assume responsibility for the captioning.

3. **Will I have access to the electronic materials while it is being captioned?**
   Yes, a copy of the master video will be made for you to use while the material is being captioned.

4. **What if I record a show from television that I want to show in my class?**
   DSPS funds can not be used to caption personal electronic materials. Instructors are responsible for obtaining the copyright permission and captioning personal electronic materials if they want to continue to using them in their classes.

5. **Can I show my captioned electronic media in my online class?**
   Your captioned videos can be shown in your online course if you obtained the copyright permission from the copyright owner. It is recommended that you speak to the SDCCD Online Dean or your Department Chair if you plan on using electronic media in your online class.

6. **What constitutes as an “existing video”?**
   Videos that were purchased prior to August 2002.

7. **What happens to electronic media once it is captioned?**
   The captioned electronic media becomes property of the San Diego City College Audio Visual Library or the school department who owns the electronic media. The master electronic media (without captions) will be kept in separate storage.

8. **How do I go about getting electronic media captioned?**
   If you have an “existing” video that you need to have captioned; contact the LRC-Multimedia for possible solutions or if an online course, contact Online Learning Pathways.

9. **How do I go about purchasing electronic media without captioning?**
   If you choose to purchase electronic media that is not captioned, then your Dean and Department Chair must agree to allocate the funds to caption the resource.
10. Do foreign language videos have to be captioned?
Yes. Access to information must be provided in an alternate format in the foreign language of the original audiovisual instruction material. These sources take longer to caption.

For more information, refer to:

Assembly Bill 422 – Addresses whether the requirements of the law apply to publishers outside of California and limitations of the law. Legal Opinion E 00-33 (10/25/00), 2 pages.

Closed Captioning of Audiovisual Materials in Video Format – Responses to questions raised regarding access to audiovisual materials. Legal Opinion M 02-22, (8/2/02), 8 pages.

Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act – First legal opinion of Section 508 offering notice of new regulations and updated clarifications. Legal Opinion M 03-19 (6/11/01), 3 pages, and M 07-17 (3/20/03), 3 pages.