Full script of voice interpreting for deaf consumer only:

00:27 I can, can I just make it up?

00:29 OK.

00:37 I have a problem with my family and my relationship.

00:52 – 1:18 I don’t have good communication with my family. It’s a really big struggle for us to understand each other, and I’m also struggling in my relationship to communicate so everything is hard. And I’m deaf so I just feel really like I’m stuck and (clarify with consumer in ASL) trapped. I feel really trapped.

01:31 – 1:55 I’m an only child so both of my parents have never really experienced being around deaf people so they wanted to force me to get a cochlear implant and to use speech. I can’t speak that well, so I really prefer to use sign so that’s really conflicting.

02:05 Hearing.

02:11 Yes.

02:18- 02:20 Well, we’ve been dating for almost four months.

02:25 Yes.

02:41 – 3:14 Because at first I thought that he was texting me and we were gonna (pause) everything was going really well together and the month before we had gone out and there’d never been a problem and I never understood why he didn’t talk to me or, you know (pause). Ok, because he wanted me, he preferred me to use my voice too and he did not appreciate my signing and deafness.

03:21 Yes.

03:42 Yes, definitely.

03:56 – 04:24 Yeah. Really when we first really started talking with each other I realized it was easy to just talk, you know to have a conversation, but later, it kind of seems like everything is frustrating and there’s no communication and we are always fighting. And I think we might need to end the relationship.

04:55 – 05:10 I like to go hiking and travel. I like to draw, just hang out and watch movies, hang out with my friends.

05:19 – 05:35 It’s about half and half, half hearing half deaf people. But most of my friends know sign language and I’m teaching them so they understand and they support me and they want more exposure to deaf culture and community.

05:47 – 05:54 I’m 22. Wait! I mean I’m 23. I just turned 23.

06:05 – 06:07 Yeah. This is my second year. I’m a sophomore.

06:12 – 06:13 Here, at EKU.

06:21 Yeah.

06:26 – 06:30 ITP, so I’m going to be a Certified Deaf Interpreter.

06:42 - 06:48 I’m Pre-ITP now. Next semester I will be applying.

07:00 – 07:14 Yes! It’s very very stressful because I know I have to take very tough classes, and I have to apply for the program, and I have to find references, and there’s so many things that I have to do that it’s SO stressful.

07:33 – 07:34 Yeah, of course!

07:48 Yes. Right.

07:55 They’re still married.

08:09 – 08:11 Yes, I was born deaf.

08:31 – 08:34 Do you want me to explain my real experience or make it up?

08:39 – 10:50 I’ll go ahead and tell you my real experience. Growing up, I was oral. I had cochlear implants I can speak, well a long time ago, because now I don’t because I can sign. So growing up in middle school, I went to deaf camp for the summer, and that was really cool. But I went in and I felt really awkward because everyone was, like, signing and I was overwhelmed. I didn’t know what to do and I was really struggling. So then my teacher wanted to know what was up with me, and he took me into a room to discuss what was going on. I realized that I hadn’t been exposed to deaf culture or the community, so they really started going into depth about what that was about and I was like: “Oh my God! Yeah, I get it!” That was everything. It started then. I started picking up sign language and learning. Really, when I got home, I told my parents exactly how I felt about it, and they were willing to learn sign language with me and you know, be involved in deaf culture and support me. But before that, I was really struggling with people. My parents were fine, but I had one friend that have never been exposed to deaf and he thought that I couldn’t do anything. Like, I couldn’t get a driver’s license, I couldn’t go into school, or I couldn’t understand how anything worked or get a job. So when I went into middle school, I had that exposure to deaf and I realized “Wow! I can do those things!” In high school , I got a driver’s license; I passed. I graduated. I got a job. Then I realized that deaf can do all of those things too. So really I’m finding out my identity as a deaf person, how to use sign language, and how to have access through language. So that.

11:02 -11:03 Yeah, they can sign. Yeah.

12:00 – 12:20 Hmmm, I want to say about one or two months after deaf camp. That was when I started *really* learning, then I was teaching my parents and really taught them everything I know. And now, I’m really fluent and I teach them now, so my parents know sign language. So since middle school.

12:35 – 12:48 Nope, nothing. I knew *some* signs, but not ASL, more like brand new basic signs, some fingerspelling, yes, no, and that’s about it.

12:59 Yes.

13:14 – 13:34 At first, I believe that I couldn’t do everything, but then when I went into deaf camp and I saw a deaf driver, I was like “Wow! Deaf can drive too!” Then I realized, you know, it changed my beliefs about deaf and deaf culture and community. So, we can do everything. Except hear.

13:52 – 14:02 I was mainstreamed. There were, like, 4 or 5 other deaf students in my high school with me.

14:25 – 14:55 It was a challenge for me, well, I’m not trying to insult deaf schools or tear them down, but deaf schools typically have really lower education standards. They have better access, but for me, I prefer public schools because it’s more challenging and I had a better education. And you know, I could learn more about that kind of environment. I had better English and language skills because of that.

15:08 – 15:24 Well, really, writing. You know, like grammar structure. Now that I’m becoming (pause) ASL is my first language, I’m struggling more with English and now I have to improve it all.

15:31 English is SO complex!

16:20 No, that’s fine. Go ahead.

16:42 No, I think you mean deaf studies.

16:54 – 17:09 When I started here at EKU, I became (interpreter self-correct), I went into deaf education but then I realized I was going to have to take practice, (interpreter self-correct) Praxis and I would fail, so I dropped it and I transferred my major to pre-itp.

17:38 Yes. Oh yeah!

17:58 – 18:39 After high school, I got a job for a year. Dog, yeah, dog-sitting. Then I had a problem with my boss. Not really that bad, but my boss gave me a lot of work that, you know, hearing people struggled with. I was fine, but I just quit. I just didn’t really like my boss. So then I started doing community (interpreter self-correct) I went to a community college, and then I decided to transfer here.

19:02 – 19:05 Yes. When we are finished, you just leave. I don’t know!

19:14 Thank you! You too. No problem.