Don: Throughout history, the general public had viewed Deaf people as needing to be fixed or as a problem. The general view was a long list of negative things they saw about Deaf people, such as *couldn't read*, *can't write*, *can't talk*, *can't hear*, or *not smart*. All those negative concoctions about Deaf people are associated with the word "Deafness". We work to reframe how Deaf people are viewed through the Deafhood lens instead of using the Deafness lens.

Deafhood is a sum of positive things about Deaf people, focused on what Deaf people can do, including *can read*, *can write*, *can sign*, *can interact*, *have a community*, *have culture*, and so forth. Deafhood is about understanding ourselves, analyzing our life experiences including oppression, and how we overcome and resist those negative experiences. Oppression still occurs on a systemic level and we learn how to resist. Deafhood is about accepting who we are: we are Deaf and that is okay. We are equal to hearing people (people who can hear) in the way we do things. They have their hearing values, use voice, have a spoken language, culture and way of interacting whereas we, on our own terms, have our Deaf values, use sign, our language, our culture and our way of interacting. We can mutually respect and interact with one another without having to be forced to follow the "other" values.

Deafhood is about envisioning a positive future for Deaf people with a goal to achieve unity within the fields of academics and various communities. We will work to raise the profiles of studies in signed languages, achieve economic justice, improve our political power, all for the overall betterment our Deaf community. Understand that it is not enough to just dream. We must work to reach a better future for the Deaf community, and more importantly, do this for Deaf children and their future.