

OPI Familiarization Workshop

Description of the OPI:

The ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) is a valid and reliable means of assessing how well a person speaks a language. The OPI is proficiency-based. It assesses the ability to use language effectively and appropriately in real-life situations. It assesses spontaneous unrehearsed language. The OPI is a 20–30-minute one-on-one interview between a certified ACTFL tester and an examinee. It is interactive and speaker centered which means that each OPI is a unique experience. The tester will adjust their approach to the OPI based on the evidence of proficiency they are able to identify in the test taker's performance. The OPI is a criterion referenced assessment. The speaker's performance is compared to the criteria outlined in the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines 2012 - Speaking or the Interagency Language Roundtable Language Skill Level Descriptors – Speaking.

Workshop Description:

This workshop familiarizes participants with the [ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines](#), ACTFL Rating Scale, and the [ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interview \(OPI\)](#). The OPI is a valid and reliable means of assessing how well a person speaks a language. This workshop includes practice applying the ACTFL speaking assessment criteria to language samples as well as applications and implications of the Oral Proficiency Interview in classroom instruction.

Note: Participants who complete this workshop are not eligible to apply for Limited (Novice Low – Intermediate High) or Full (Novice Low – Superior) OPI Tester Certification. This workshop is appropriate for language educators who do not wish to pursue OPI Tester Certification.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Define the concept of proficiency
- Differentiate between the major ACTFL proficiency levels
- Describe typical linguistic features of each of the major ACTFL speaking levels
- Differentiate between the sublevels of the ACTFL proficiency levels
- Describe the different ACTFL speaking assessment criteria for each major level
- Describe the structure of the ACTFL OPI
- Identify effective techniques for eliciting a language sample
- Apply the assessment criteria to language samples

Workshop Agenda (8.5 hours):

Time	Content
Section One 60 min.	ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines and Rating Scale
Section Two 60 min.	Interview Structure and Elicitation Techniques
15 min.	BREAK
Section Three 1h 15 min.	View and Discuss Interviews: Lower Levels
60 min.	LUNCH BREAK

Section Four 1h 30 min.	Elicitation Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Question Types• Spiraling Topics
15 min.	BREAK
Section Five 60 min.	View and Discuss Recorded Interviews: Higher Levels
Section Six 45 min.	Implications for Instruction
Section Seven 30 min.	Final Debrief