

Deaf Culture Question of the Week – January 16 - 20, 2012  
Bill Newell, Principal Washington School for the Deaf

What is the term coined by Dr. Dirksen Bauman and colleagues at Gallaudet University to describe the benefits Deaf people provide to human culture?

- a) Audism
- b) Deaf Pah!
- c) Deaf Gain
- d) Deafness No Limits

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer “c” – Deaf Gain is a term coined by Dr. Dirksen Bauman and colleagues at Gallaudet University to describe the benefits Deaf people provide to human culture. This goes beyond identifying the contributions of “successful” deaf individuals and their contributions to society. Dr. Bauman’s contention is that there is very positive benefit to human culture from the unique perspectives and life experiences of Deaf people. Deaf Gain turns the notion of deafness “on its heels.” Instead of viewing being deaf as a disabling condition Dr. Bauman shows in a carefully articulated argument how the language, perspectives, values and culture of Deaf people can be viewed as enabling ways of experiencing the world that our human society would sorely

miss if Deaf culture and language were somehow eliminated.

View a video where Dr. Bauman explains the concept of Deaf Gain here:

<http://videocatalog.gallaudet.edu/player.cfm?video=14338>

View this video which explains the concept of Deaf Gain and the relationship of Deaf Gain to the concept of transnationalism:

<http://deafyouvideo.blogspot.com/2011/04/deaf-gain-transnationalism.html>

Read this article explaining the concept of Deaf Gain:

[http://dsdj.gallaudet.edu/assets/section/section2/entry19/DSDJ\\_entry19.pdf](http://dsdj.gallaudet.edu/assets/section/section2/entry19/DSDJ_entry19.pdf)

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