

## 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.	<b>BREAK</b>
Section Three 1h 15 min.	View and Discuss Interviews: Lower Levels
60 min.	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>

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