

# YOU MIGHT BE AN AUDIST IF...

...you think all Deaf people are skilled at lipreading.

...you believe that all Deaf people welcome prayers for healing.

...you refuse to turn on the closed captions because you think they're distracting, even if there's a Deaf TV viewer in the room.

...you see Deaf individuals with kids and wonder how they can be good parents.

...you think knowing a few signs makes you a CHAMP interpreter. #FakeInterpreter

...you think Deaf people lack intelligence due to the simple fact of not being able to hear and/or use their voice.

...you think being able to hear and speak makes you superior to a Deaf person who relies on sign language to communicate.

...you think interpreters are distracting and wish that they would be removed from the stage.

...you think you can teach Deaf people what it means to be Deaf. #Audisplaining

...you believe that Deaf people would be successful if they use hearing aids or cochlear implants.

...you think the world can be experienced and enjoyed only through sounds.

...you don't want to hire Deaf people because you don't know how to provide reasonable accommodations.

# WHAT IS AUDISM?

The audism term was coined by Professor Tom L. Humphries back in 1975, in his doctoral dissertation.



"Audism represents hearing paternalism or hearing superiority that has happened for centuries to people who are deaf, and especially to people who are culturally Deaf."  
(Leigh, Andrews, Harris, 2018)

Audism has always been a danger to our Deaf Community by limiting the ways in which we may engage the world. Audism is an oppressive practice that is not always conscious to the doer.

Phonocentrism is the belief that the spoken language is superior to both written and signed languages. Phonocentrism is an audistic belief.

**"Be an ally,  
not an audist!"**



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