

# Captain Captions Pilot Project: Student Use of Transcripts and Captions



Justi Echeles, M.A., Teaching and Learning Center  
Linda Felver, Ph.D., R.N., School of Nursing

## Background

**Rationale:** National studies have shown that students, including those with a disability, use transcripts and captions for numerous reasons to aid in their learning.

We wanted to know how and why OHSU students use captions and transcripts when they are available with video and audio content in their courses.

**The Goal:** Encourage OHSU faculty to provide accurate captions and transcripts with all audio/video course content.

## Methods

The authors created the **Qualtrics Survey of Student Use** and then provided the survey link to OHSU faculty in Fall 2021 and Winter 2022 terms. Inclusion Criteria:

1. Students enrolled in a course where faculty provided accurate captions and transcripts with at least two videos;
2. Students volunteer to participate by completing survey.

## Results

Total Survey Participants: 72

- School of Nursing 68 (94%)
- School of Dentistry 4 (6%)

While 15% of students surveyed indicated they use captions and/or transcripts because of **hearing difficulty**, most **students use captions and transcripts as aids to their learning**.

The main reasons students indicated they use captions and transcripts are to **help focus**, **find information**, and **retain information**, followed by **difficult/medical vocabulary**, **poor audio quality**, **study guide**, and **sound-sensitive environments**.

Other reasons were **prefer to read transcript** rather than watch video or listen to audio, **English as another language** and **speaker's accent**.

## References

- Linder, K. (2016). *Student uses and perceptions of closed captions and transcripts: Results from a national study*. Corvallis, OR: Oregon State University Ecampus Research Unit.
- *Captions/Subtitles*. (2021). W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI). Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://www.w3.org/WAI/media/av/captions/>
- *Transcripts*. (2021). W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI). Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://www.w3.org/WAI/media/av/transcripts/>



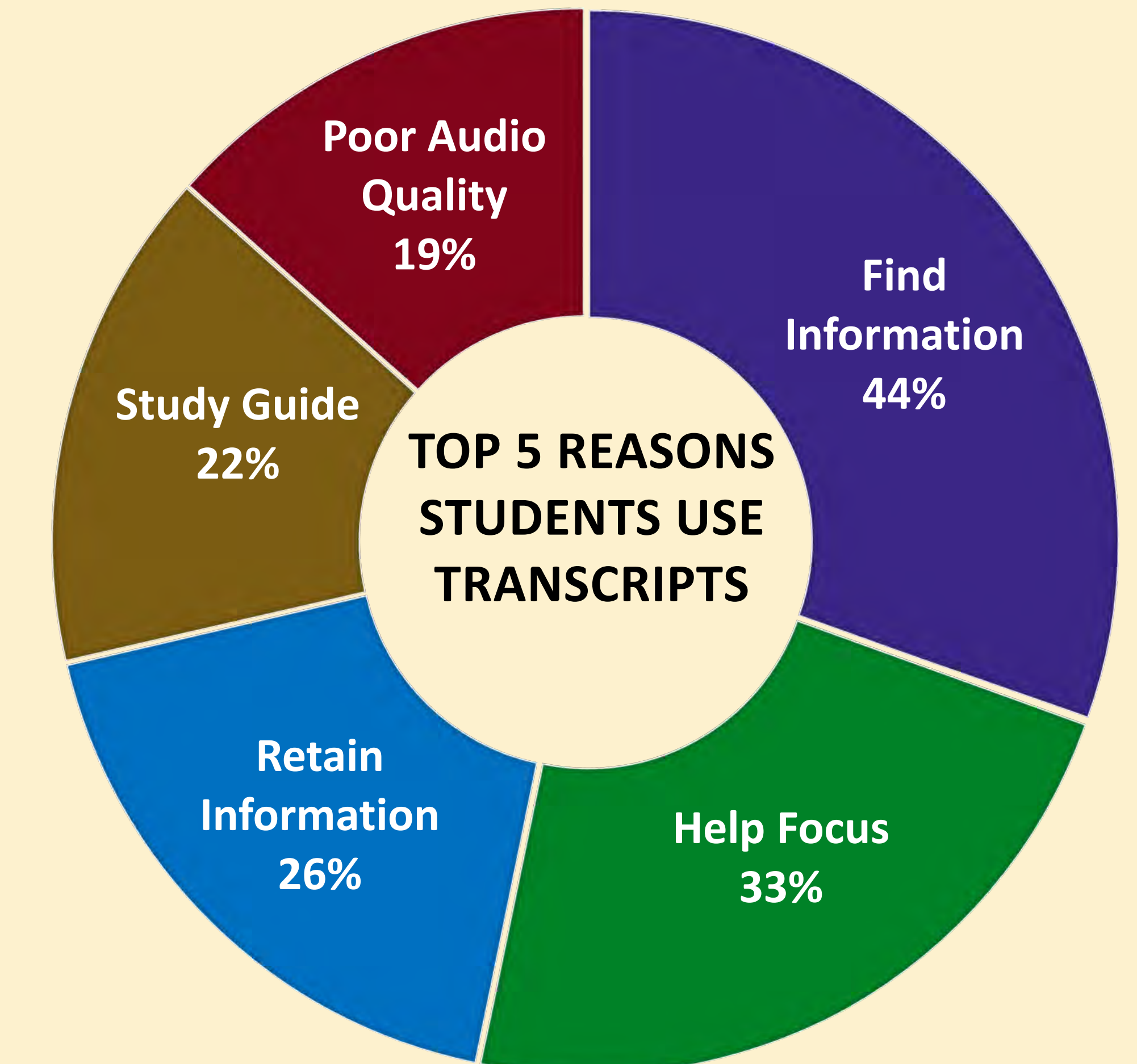
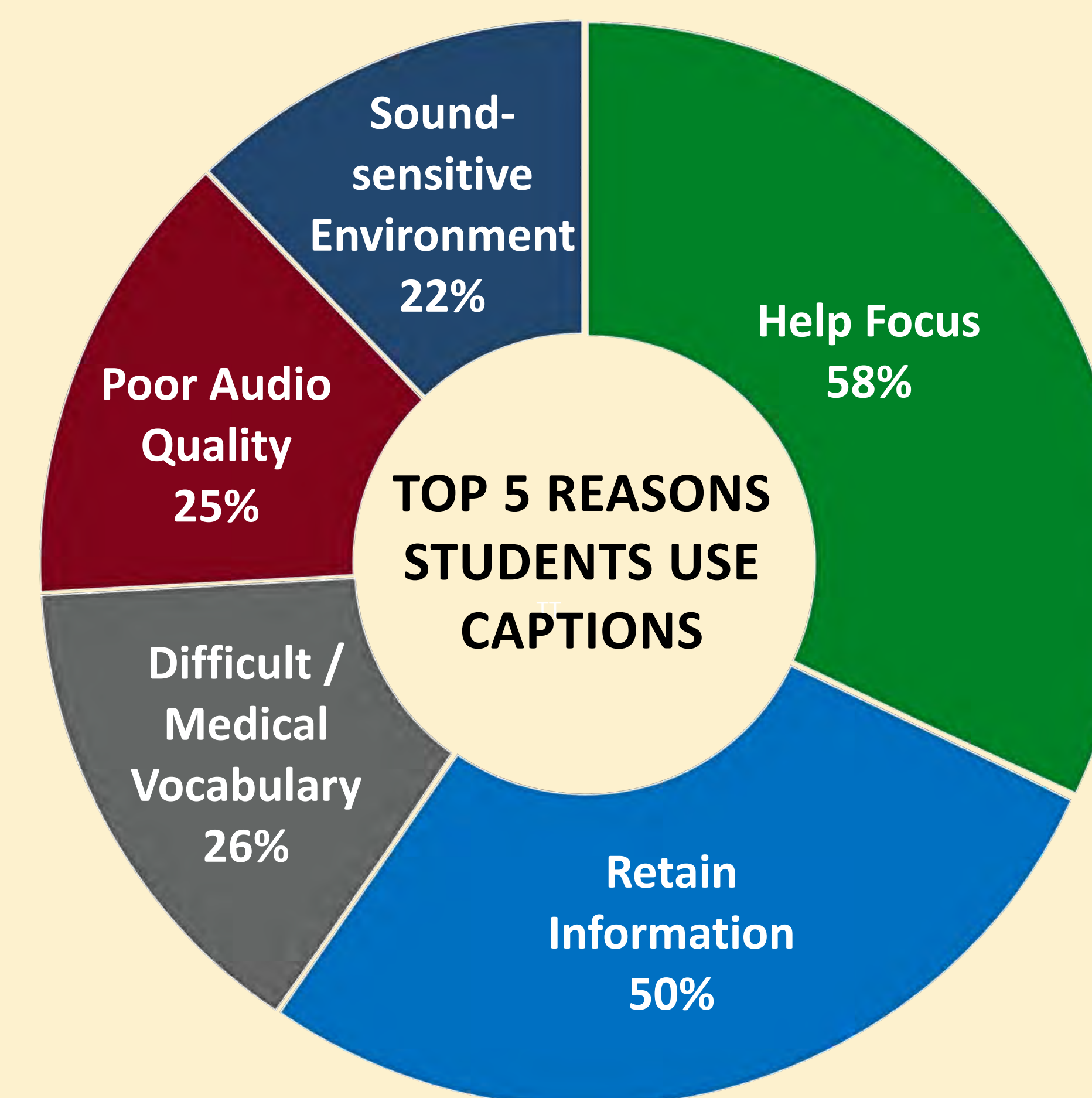
# 85% of students surveyed want captions & transcripts to be available with all video/audio content in future courses.

## Of students surveyed...

**44%** use **Captions** often or always

**36%** use **Transcripts** often or always

**15%** say **hearing difficulty** is a reason they use captions and transcripts



## Student Comments

**Increases accessibility** for those who need it

...Making lecture accessible in as many ways as possible is so important to an **equitable learning environment**

**I absolutely need CC/visual aid** to be able to register what has been said. It is very difficult for me to absorb new information from just audio

It's helpful when **searching information** or for help with **clarity**

If their **accuracy** can be reliable

...It's important to **normalize transcripts and captions** for hearing impaired/ESL people...

**CC and transcripts helps!**

