



SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR ORAL TESTIMONY TO
THE COMMISSION ON WARTIME RELOCATION AND INTERNMENT OF CIVILIANS

1. Don't draw comparisons (eg, Holocaust, Sioux Nation, Black slavery) that will invite questions which may prove difficult to answer. Keep in mind the make-up of the Commissioners.
2. Be specific--deal with your own personal experiences.
3. Leave the legal arguments to the experts. There will be plenty of attorneys who will testify on the constitutional issues.
4. Don't get verbose in condemning the government's actions in 1942 (eg, "one of the greatest constitutional injustices in the history of the U.S.") because this type of statement, like the legal argument, is too vulnerable to a challenge by the Commissioners. There will be testimony presented condemning the government's action and rationale for the evacuation. The effects of the government's action, however, should be condemned in light of the personal tragedy it created.
5. Determine what exactly the point is that you're trying to make through your oral testimony. What is the focus you are trying to present?
6. Don't over-polish your oral presentation. The most effective testimony you can give will be in the language that is the most comfortable to you.
7. Keep in mind that the Commissioner are there to gather information and facts and not to place witnesses on any kind of "hot seat."