

Tips for Crafting Your Testimony

1. Keep your personal testimony to one page.
2. Start off with your name, the bill number that your testimony addresses and if you are for, against or neutral.
3. You are telling a three minute story. Tell your true story. Your story is unique. Legislators will remember it.
4. A moving story has these elements: a protagonist (you, a family member), an antagonist (law enforcement, unjust laws, injury, disease), a plot (the chain of events), the climax (the most important event) and a theme (the lesson we want legislators to learn from the story).
5. Select your top 3 talking points and focus on them.
6. If you have to use medical terms or a specific name for an illness, do briefly describe what it means so that those seeing your testimony can understand your story better.
7. Stay away from making claims about anything or anyone but yourself, but if you must, then do cite your source.
8. Read over your testimony a few times to make sure you are clear in what you want to say and to ensure that there are no errors. Keep in mind that once your testimony is submitted, it could be further edited for length, clarity, grammar, layout, and punctuation.
9. Rehearse your story. It's okay to read it but rehearsed it several times.
10. Stay on subject. The subject is marijuana, unjust laws, the victims of unjust laws, and how marijuana heals us.
11. Sign off with your name, city and any contact information that you would like to include.
12. Do not include any profanity, obscenity, slurs or threats in your testimony. Those will not be included.
13. Leave the technical testimony to doctors, lawyers, judges, scientists, academics, paid activists, etc.
14. Save any criticisms and accusations for another time. This is the time to focus on your story.