

## General Tips on Presenting Testimony

Testimony should be clear, specific, personal, and true. Stay within the time limit.

- **Clear**
  - Start with your main point.
  - Avoid “Maybe we could...” or “couldn’t we...?” or “What about...?”
  - Instead, use “We should...” “Texas needs...” and “I know...”
- **Specific**
  - Give them a specific proposal
  - Not “I support gun rights,” but “Stop requiring a license to carry a handgun.”
- **Personal**
  - Tell them a story, from your heart, about your experiences.
  - Show why you believe gun rights policies helps your family and makes you safer.
- **True**
  - Fact-check all the facts.
  - Be sure you personally believe what you are presenting as your opinion.

### Here’s what to say:

1. “My name is \_\_\_\_\_, I am representing myself, and I am discussing the 2A topic.”

*\*\*\*You can represent an organization ONLY if they have given you specific authority to do so.*

2. Give them one sentence about yourself to add credibility. Keep it brief.

*Example: “I’m a mother, a teacher, and a member of Gun Owners of America.”*

3. Tell them your main point.

*Example: “I want the committee to pass Constitutional Carry and end gun-free zones.”*

4. Share a short personal story that explains why you want this policy. Tell them about your life and how this would make you safer and help you protect your family.

*Example: “I work at a bar and have to walk back to my car at 2AM – I can’t carry a handgun because of the 51% prohibition, and I often am afraid of being attacked. I want a chance at saving my own life.”*

5. Give them facts and data that support your point and your story.

*Example: “Over 94% of mass attacks with guns happen in gun-free zones because the victims can’t adequately defend themselves.”*

6. If you gave them a handout, remind them to look at it.

*Example: “Please see my handout for [the source for these statistics, more data, more reasons why we are safer when we end gun-free zones].”*

7. End with your main point again. Be sure you stop on time.

*Hint: Watch the timer; skip to the end of your testimony if you need to.*