



Advancing Nuclear Energy Through Testimony

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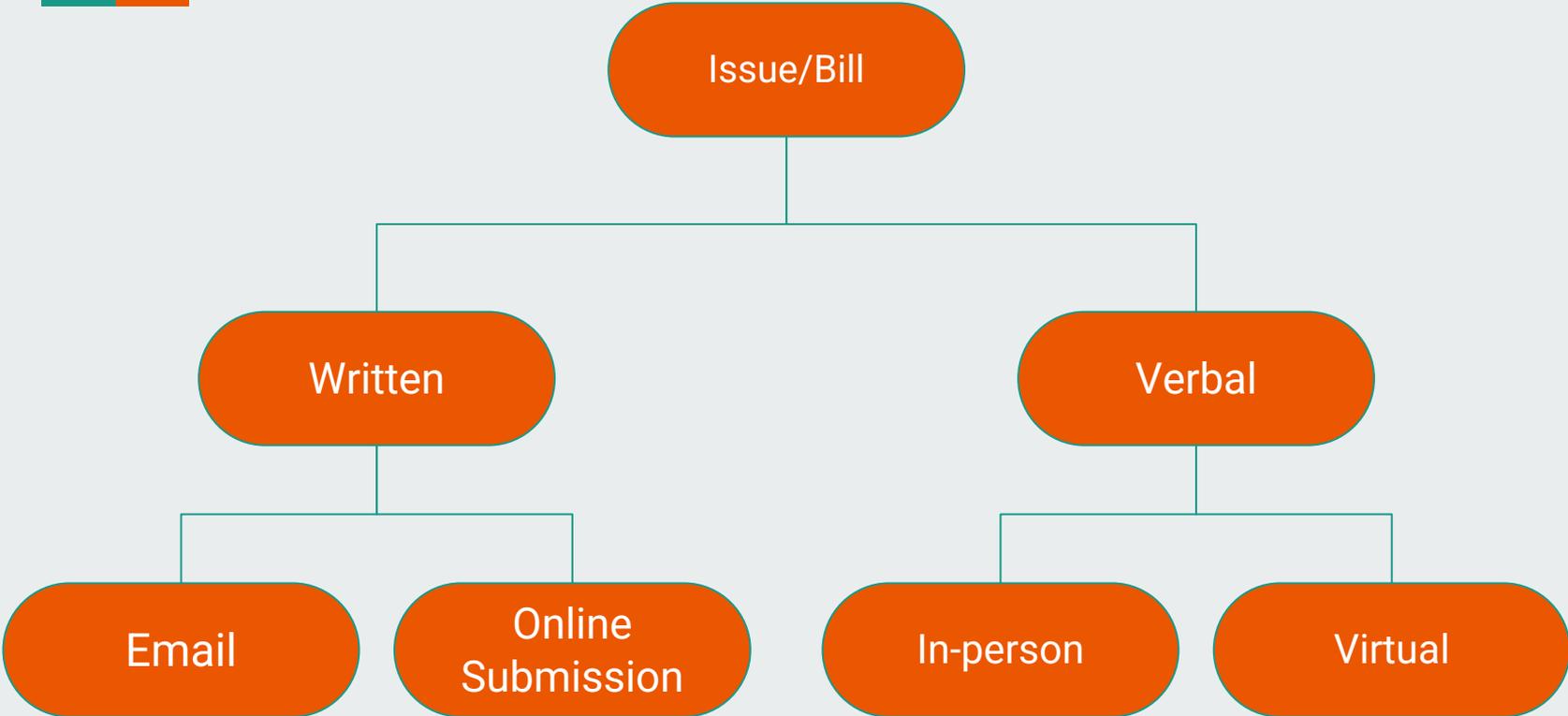
What is a testimony?



- Let decision makers know about your position on a bill or issue
 - Government/Regulatory Agency
 - Congress
 - Commissions

- Two types
 1. Written
 - ➔ Date/time deadline
 1. Verbal
 - ➔ During the public hearing

What is a testimony?



Who can give testimony?

Hayes's Testimony Helps Save Nuclear Energy in Illinois's Bid for Clean Energy

September 23, 2021



Alyssa Hayes offers testimony to the Illinois state legislature via video conferencing.

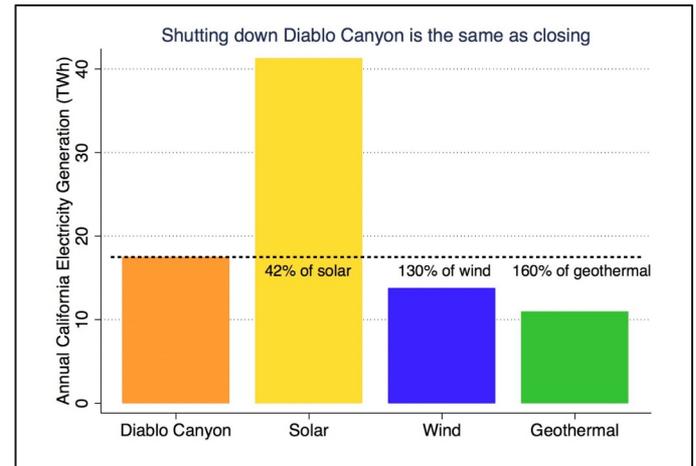
NE doctoral student Alyssa Hayes, a native of Illinois and a graduate of the University of Illinois, recently offered [testimony to the Illinois state legislature](#) about the proposed retirement of three nuclear power plants: Exelon Generation's Byron nuclear plant, as well as struggling facilities in Braidwood and Dresden.

Anyone!

- ★ Experts
- ★ Employees
- ★ Activists
- ★ Members of the community
- ★ Concerned citizens

Preparing for Written & Verbal Testimony

1. Spend time beforehand reflecting on your own experience and reasons for supporting nuclear energy
2. Collect necessary materials for a well informed testimony
 - a. What is this hearing about?
 - b. What information do you need for a strong testimony?
 - i. Relevant Data
 - ii. Comprehensive Statistics
 - c. Who will you be giving testimony to?
 - i. What are their interests?
 - ii. Who do they represent?
 - d. How long do you have to present?
3. Write it out & practice!



Source: BTI

Giving Verbal Testimony

1. Thank the audience and those hosting you
2. Remain kind and open minded
3. Only provide information you *know* to be true
4. Speak to the entire audience, not *at* previous speakers or those giving inaccurate information
 - a. General vs. specific
5. Prepare and PRACTICE your testimony
 - a. Going over time looks unprofessional



Giving Verbal Testimony (cont.)

These tips are adapted from the congressional testimony guide from the Citizen Advocacy Center.

Find the full testimony guidebook [here](#)

This is often the most powerful part!



General steps for crafting a testimony:

1. Wait your turn
2. Introduce yourself & thank the hosts
3. Clear presentation of your claim/position
4. Present factual arguments and data as evidence to support your claim/position
5. Include a personal story or anecdote
6. Restate, reiterate, reacknowledge
7. Make your ask *clear*
8. Give thanks

Submitting Written Testimony

- Short position paper
 - Structured
 - Formal
- Concise and to the point
- Submitted via portal or email
- Often published for public viewing

Steps:

1. Gather information and data
2. Create an outline
3. Make a clear claim and ask
4. Include personal connection to the bill/issue
5. Reread & revise
6. Sign and send!



Three Appeals for Persuasion

Logos. Appeal that uses logic and reason.

- "Those examples are hard to argue with."
- Logos = Logic

Ethos. Appeal that develops the character and credibility of the speaker.

- "She's been studying this issue for years."
- Ethos = Ethics = Credibility

Pathos. Appeal that engages or activate the audience's emotions or imagination.

- "I'll never forget the story she told."
- Pathos = emPATHy = Emotion

... and then when I realized that nuclear power _____, and I knew I had to do something to advocate for it.



Testimony Tips - Misinformation



Tackling misinformation can be tricky and requires careful planning.

Steps for addressing misinformation:

1. Is it *actually* false?
2. Is it worth addressing?
 - a. Personal experiences
 - b. Irrefutable
3. Consider perspective
4. Avoid escalation
5. Be a *resource*



Testimony Practice #1

Prompt:

The NRC is holding a hearing about the relicensing of the nuclear power plant in your area. The hearing is open for public verbal testimony.

What are some things you would want to make sure are in your testimony? How would you frame your testimony?



Testimony Practice #2

Prompt:

Representatives from your state legislature are discussing a bill in the Energy & Utilities Committee that would include nuclear energy in the state's climate plan. They have opened this hearing up for public testimony.

What would you make sure to include in your testimony? What are some things you should research beforehand?



Testimony Practice #3

Prompt:

You're waiting your turn to give verbal testimony and another witness says this:

“Nuclear plants are so unsafe! The meltdowns ruin communities and cause generations of people to develop disease and cancer!”

How could you potentially respond to this statement while keeping your testimony effective? What should you avoid doing?

Thank you all!

Sources for this workshop:

1. <https://pen.org/how-to-talk-to-friends-and-family-who-share-misinformation/>
2. <https://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc.html>
3. http://www.citizenadvocacycenter.org/uploads/8/8/4/0/8840743/guidelines_for_preparing_writing_and_giving_testimony.pdf
4. <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/environmental-justice-movement>
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