

Top Ten Ways to have a successful Asylum Interview

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Your asylum interview is a crucial step in demonstrating the truth and seriousness of your asylum claim. The following are suggestions to implement before and during an asylum interview for successful results:

Before Interview:

1 Review declaration and application

Review your declaration and application some time after you submit it and a week or two before your interview. You can better catch any errors and also realize if you have left any important details out that need to be added.

2 Prep for the interview

Review the application thoroughly and go over details of your story with your attorney or close family member or friend. Try to refresh your memory.

3 Have Translator

Prepare to have a translator, if needed. It is better to be safe than sorry.

4 Take care of yourself and prepare for the interview as if it is a big exam

Get your sleep the night before the interview. Make sure to eat before you go so you are not hungry. Interviews can be half an hour to even three hours long. You need to have enough energy for this intensive event.

5 Prepare for Early morning interviews

If your interview is early in the morning and you are not an early morning person, wake up early a few days before the day of the interview. On the day of the interview, make sure to give yourself enough time to wake up your brain (talk to someone, drink coffee, etc.) so that you will be able to do your best.

6 Drive to the interview location the day or two before the interview

This will inform you how long it will take to arrive and any obstacles you might incur. Plan to arrive early the day of the interview.

During the Interview:

7 Bring additional evidence or edits

Bring any new evidence, new supporting documents, new articles, and edits to your application or declaration.

8 Try to connect with the asylum officer

Try to connect with the asylum officer so they understand your story and reasons for applying for asylum. Many asylum officers type notes during the interview. Don't be bothered or distracted by this but try to stay focused on the interview and answering the questions.

9 Bring up two to three key themes to your claim

Sit back and realize two to three points of why you are requesting asylum. Remember to reiterate these two to three key themes throughout the interview and especially at the beginning and end.

10 Show of Emotion

It is ok to cry and show emotion. If anything, this helps demonstrate the veracity of your claim and you shouldn't try to hold back your thoughts, emotions, and fears.