


## Facilitating Your Witnesses' Best Communication: An Approach to Interviewing, Assessing, and Preparing Testimony


Effective witness preparation takes time, a strategic plan, and a measured approach. It means knowing what you want to accomplish and how you plan to go about it. In particular, it means going above and beyond substantive preparation and evaluating and improving witness confidence and communication through nonverbal communication, effective language use, and careful listening. Topics include:

- The goals of witness preparation
- How to approach witness preparation
- Devising a preparation schedule
- Working with nonverbal communication
- Effective use of language
- Effective listening skills
- Dealing with "lawyer's tricks"
- Handling problem witnesses

### Preparing Your Witness for Deposition

1. Goals
2. Approach
3. Preparation Schedule
4. Non-Verbal
5. Language
6. Listening
7. "Lawyer's Tricks"
8. Problem Witnesses



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### Improving Your Witness' Language Use

1. Goals
2. Approach
3. Preparation Schedule
4. Non-Verbal
5. Language
6. Listening
7. "Lawyer's Tricks"
8. Problem Witnesses

**Teach**  
– Familiarize with principles of effective deposition language

**Explore**  
– Encourage trying different ways of answering, different ways of explaining

**Reinforce**  
– When it sounds most effective – have them try it again

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