

Description of Our Interview Preparation and Methodology

Kathleen provides the foundation for all four parts of the interview: reading, writing, civics, and N-400/conversation. This gives the candidate the necessary context, information, and skills to proceed with interview preparation. In other words, the foundation and exercises are interdependent and equally necessary.

Once students have submitted their application and/or given their fingerprints (in consultation with Kathleen about their readiness for these steps), we focus on interview preparation. Keep in mind that a companion goal throughout is to expand and enhance English fluency, both during practice and in general conversation.

Repeat Drills

- Ask all 100 civics questions, out of order, in small groups or one-on-one. Document problem questions by student and repeat them multiple times.
- Student reads sample sentences and key words. Pronunciation will vary by native language, but make sure that the words are pronounced understandably. As with civics, document problem words and sentences by student and repeat them multiple times.
- Student writes sample sentences and key words from dictation. Evaluation will be flexible but go for perfection during practice. Make sure that the student **prints** for legibility. And, as with reading, document problem words and sentences by student and repeat them multiple times.
- N-400 personal and background questions. Ensure that students can answer the personal questions clearly and consistently, and that they can answer the Part 12 questions and understand their meanings.
- Report back to Kathleen about the areas that individual students should concentrate on in class.

Focus Areas

Examine application for areas to focus on. Family, travel, taxes, any “yes” answers (e.g., military service).

Practice interviews for Lawrence (one officer) or Boston (two or three officers), as appropriate. Don’t forget the basics, such as:

- Greeting: stand up, ask how the officer is.
- Left v. right, index fingers.
- Oath.
- Reasons for wanting to be a citizen.
- Marriage(s) and child(ren).
- Travel.
- Taxes.
- Be prepared to explain if name is different on different documents.
- Meanings!

List of documents to bring to interview.

- At the very least, bring the interview letter, Green Card, and Passport.
- Driver’s license and/or state ID, if you have either.
- Marriage, death and/or divorce, and birth certificates.
- Even old passport if it applies to travel in the past five years.
- Other documents as relevant, including taxes and proof of residence.
- Copy of application.
- Organize documents carefully so they may be easily retrieved.

Student can register with USCIS and track the status of their application online.