

Your Story, Your Testimony: Describing your Community of Interest ¹

Your story is your testimony. Testimony about your community will help the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Redistricting Commission draw new district lines that will strengthen your child's education. **Your testimony should tell the story of the traits that you and your neighbors share, this is your community of interest.** How do you tell the story of your community to someone who never visited? Every community is unique and different. **You are the expert of your community.**

Four main questions to describe your community of interest:

- 1. Where is your community located?** Be specific
 - Identify your north/south and east/west boundaries; include unique features such as street names, rivers, highways, a mountain range, etc.
 - Draw your street boundaries: a sketch, Google Map, Mapquest or Thomas Guide
- 2. What does your community do together?** Use stories to describe a unified community
 - Has your community worked together to achieve a common goal? (Examples: Neighborhood street clean ups, community gardens, organizing an annual festival or parade, etc.)
 - What are the common activities that your community participates in? (Examples: a soccer league, a shared religious congregation, a common shopping district)
- 3. What traits does your community share?**
 - What is the common language spoken by your community?
 - Is there a common income level to the community? What is the educational level?While not necessary, you can use statistical data to support your statements. Data is available at the US Census website <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/data/>
- 4. What communities are you most similar to or different from?**
 - List the communities that share the common traits you described above. You may want to be in a district with these communities since they may also have similar goals to your community.
 - List the communities that do not share your traits and goals. These communities may need a district different from yours.

Submit your story:

- **In-person:** Telling your story in person is powerful. The LAUSD Commission will be able see you and connect your story with how they draw the new maps. Bring 16 copies of your story to share with the Commission. For a schedule of upcoming hearings visit www.latinosdrawthelines.org or contact agarcia@naleo.org
- **In writing:** If you cannot attend a public hearing send in your testimony.
Email: TBD US Mail: TBD Fax: TBD

For help developing your story contact Astrid Garcia at agarcia@naleo.org or (213)747-7606 ext 4434

¹ A community of interest cannot be described on race alone. We are more than just Latino, let the Commission know of our community's rich ancestry (Mexican, Salvadoran, Puerto Rican, etc) A community of interest shares many characteristics including social and economic. We need to demonstrate that our community shares too many things in common to be split apart.

My Community of Interest Worksheet

My name is _____ and I am from (state community) _____.

I have lived in this community for _____

I am here today to request that my community of interest is kept together in the maps that the Commission is drawing.

Other Comments: _____

Where is your community located? *Identify street names, highways, landmarks, mountain ranges, rivers, etc*

North _____

South _____

East _____

West _____

Other _____

What does your community do together? *Describe annual festivals, traditions, shared utilities, schools, etc*

What traits does your community share? *Describe social and economic traits using your stories and Census data*

What communities are you most similar to or different from?

My community is similar to

My community is different from
