

Maria and the Rude Examiner

Maria Garcia knew that there would be problems when the USCIS Examiner didn't even say, "Hello".

Maria had been studying at the Milpitas Adult School for many years. She had completed ESL6 and had attended the Citizenship class for almost one year. Maria listened very carefully to the reports given by the students about their Citizenship interviews. Most students said that their examiners were serious, but polite. Some students, however, became so intimidated, that they couldn't answer the examiner's questions.

Maria practiced her N-400 responses and the 100 Questions daily. Maria knew that she was ready, but she was still nervous.

Finally the big day comes. When the examiner calls her name; Marie stands and says "Present!" The examiner simply turns and walks out. Marie follows close behind.

When they get to the examiner's office, the examiner asks Maria for her ID. Maria gives the examiner her Legal Permanent Resident Card and her California ID card. Then Maria promises to tell the truth.

The examiner asks her some basic questions from the N-400. But instead of asking Maria to tell her the information, the examiner asks Maria "Yes" or "No" questions: "Is your name Maria Garcia? Are you from Mexico? Do you live in San Jose? Do you work at the Del Monte Packing Plant? Are you married to Juan Garcia? Do you have three children?" Marie answers, "Yes" to each question, but she still has a bad feeling. (→next page→)



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- USCIS Examiner: Have you ever been deported?
- Maria: No.
- USCIS Examiner: I am giving you a chance to tell me the truth. Again, have you ever been deported?
- Maria: No, I have never been deported.
- USCIS Examiner: Don't lie to me! I have a paper here that says that you came to America illegally in 1989. A judge told you to leave, and you left voluntarily.
- Maria: I did come to America illegally in 1989, but I got my Green Card in 1993. I never left the country until after I got my Green Card.

Maria becomes very, very afraid. She is afraid that she will be arrested in the USCIS office and deported. She is so afraid, that she forgets to cry. She is so afraid, that she forgets if the examiner asked her about supporting the Constitution, bearing arms, or serving as a non-combatant.

Finally, the examiner hands her a paper, and tells her to read each questions aloud and write the answers. The first question is: "What are some of the requirements to be eligible to become President?" After reading and answering five questions correctly, the examiner stops her. Then the examiner gives her a dictation sentence: "I work very hard at my job."

The examiner hands her a paper and says, "You will receive a letter in the mail about the Oath Ceremony." The examiner escorts Maria to the door, and leaves without saying goodbye. Maria looks at the paper which says, "Congratulations! You passed!"

Maria still can't believe it. She can believe that she passed—after all, she had studied very hard—but she can't believe that the examiner was so rude!



*Do you think that the interviewer was rude
or was there a misunderstanding? Why?
What would you do if a USCIS examiner was rude to you?*

