

The C.O. Seminar

Order of ProceduresIntroductory

Start promptly. Pass out to each registrant a copy of Form 150, memos on preparing for personal appearance, memo on getting reference letter. Have applicants fill out 3 by 5 cards. Give them cards and pens; tell them to write down their name, address, tel. no., and zip code #. Explain that it is not mandatory for them to do this, but helpful to us in following through with them.

Have the registrants introduce themselves one by one, going around the table. Find out where each man is at in his thinking about and application for C.O. status. What is his current classification? Has he received an induction order? Make sure each man knows what his next step with his Local Board should be. How can the Seminar help him? Find out who brought something written to read.

Go over the general appeal procedures. Make sure everyone knows the proper sequence and timing for filing, personal appearance, appeal. Outline the seminar and explain that the applicants should take the initiative in making the discussion relevant to their needs. Urge them to interrupt whenever they have a question.

Go Over Form 150

Start with the quote from the Selective Service Act on the first page. Go over Local Board Memorandum 107, in order to interpret the S.S. Act. Read through the four questions asked in the Form 150 and explain the assumptions which underly them. Ask if there are any questions so far.

Discuss Answers to Form 150

This should be a collective effort to help the applicant find out more about himself. Encourage those present to listen and respond to each other. Wait for others to react before giving your own criticisms. Concentrate on the first two questions, since they are the most difficult. Make sure you hear the applicant's answers to both questions.

Roll Play Personal Appearances

The idea is to give applicants practice in expressing themselves. Ask questions as if you were a local board member and demand direct answers. Don't just talk about how to answer or what to say. Sample questions appear in the C.O. Handbook.

Explain How to Get Reference LettersConclusion

Remind registrants that these seminars occur every Wednesday at 8. If they found tonight helpful, they should feel free to come back next week. Urge them to bring something written, no matter how rough. Explain that those not planning to come back should be sure to let us know what happens to them. We need feedback.

Ask those who haven't done so already to fill out a card with their name, address, and telephone no. on it.

Remind applicants to pick up memos on their way out. If they don't have a C. O. Handbook already, sell them one.

Point out our library on non-violence. Explain how to get to AFSC's Bookstore. Invite registrants to coming events in the Antiwar Movement.

Ask if there are any suggestions for improving the seminar.

Invite articulate counselees to come back and help run the seminar.

Invite boys who've written an exceptional statement to send us a copy.

Ask if anyone needs a ride or a place to spend the night.

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