

**TEACHER'S GUIDE**  
**Primary Source Document Collection**  
**MISSION US: "Prisoner in My Homeland"**

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**Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry: Joe Yamikido**

In 1943, the U.S. military required all draft-age Nisei to fill out a "Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry." This form would be informally known as the loyalty questionnaire, as two of the more controversial questions on the document (questions 27 and 28) asked participants if they would serve in the armed forces, and if they would pledge allegiance to the United States. The questionnaire created a good deal of confusion, fear, and anger throughout the camps, as Nisei were being asked to swear allegiance to their own country while they were being simultaneously incarcerated by the government. The following completed form shows how one incarcerated responded to these controversial questions. When asked in Question 27 if he would serve in the armed forces if ordered, Joe Yamakido responded, "Yes, if drafted [and] provided I am given equal rights and opportunity as caucasians." Yamakido was arrested for resisting the draft, but served in the army after World War II.

[Full Completed Form](#)

FORM APPROVED  
BUDGET BUREAU No. 22-R048-42  
FORM APPROVED  
BUDGET BUREAU No. 23-R045-43



(LOCAL BOARD DATE STAMP WITH CODE)

**STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES CITIZEN OF JAPANESE ANCESTRY**

1. YAMAKIDO (Surname)      JOE (English given name)      ATSUMI (Japanese given name)

27. Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered? YES, IF DRAFTED

28. Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power, or organization? YES

3/19/43 (Date)      [Signature] (Signature)

NOTE.—Any person who knowingly and wilfully falsifies or conceals a material fact or makes a false or fraudulent statement or representation in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States is liable to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or 10 years' imprisonment, or both.

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**Source:** Joe Yamakido, "Statement of United States Citizen of Japanese Ancestry." National Archives, Records of the War Relocation Authority 210.3.4.

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