



Climb the Mountain

Speech and Debate Foundation

Middle School 3 on 3 Parli Debate Speaker Templates

1. First Prop
2. Second Prop
3. Third Prop

4. First Opp
5. Second Opp
6. Third Opp

7. Points of Information

Being 1st Prop Speaker

Prep	<p><i>Get the tournament provided flow paper.</i></p> <p><i>Topic is announced. Write it down word for word.</i></p> <p><i>Prepare—by flowing your speech in the 1P column.</i></p> <p><i>As you prepare, ask the 3P to help if needed and communicate with the 2P what you will argue.</i></p>
Intro: 1 sentence introducing the topic, often a “hook,” a question.	<p><i>Would you let a bully go unchallenged?</i></p>
Background: 1 to 3 sentences explaining the current policy/what is happening.	<p><i>Russia must be stopped from its aggression—it has attacked Ukraine, Georgia, Syria and threatens other countries. The U.S. and Europe have imposed some economic sanctions on Russia.</i></p>
The Topic: We support the topic, stating the topic exactly as worded	<p><i>We support the topic “Economic sanctions against Russia are justified.”</i></p>
Model: explain how you support the topic. --Define only key terms --Who will do it? What will they do?	<p><i>The Council on Foreign Relations defines economic sanctions as the withdrawal of customary trade and financial relations for foreign and security policy purposes.</i></p> <p><i>We support US and European Union economic sanctions targeted on the leadership of Russia.</i></p>
Roadmap: very concisely state your contentions	<p><i>In this speech, I will argue first, sanctions prevent war, second, sanctions reduce Russian interference, and third, sanctions help Europe’s economy.</i></p>
Proposition Contentions <i>Proposition should have 3 or 4 contentions each with:</i> -- PROBLEM Show there is a problem and that the problem hurts people/the environment/is morally wrong -- SOLUTION Show the topic will solve the problem <i>Remember that your arguments supporting the problem and solution should follow AREI with sources!</i>	<p>PROPOSITION EXAMPLE CONTENTION</p> <p>1. Sanctions would prevent war</p> <p>PROBLEM Russia threatens war--Russia has supported rebels in Ukraine with weapons and troops to fight and kill Ukrainians. Aurel Braun. Writer at World Affairs. July/August 2014 has noted that this is a threat to not just Ukraine but also to any country neighboring Russia. Millions of lives depend on peace and protection from Russian aggression.</p> <p>SOLUTION Economic Sanctions halt Russia--Iana Dreyer and Nicu Popescu. Writers at European Union Institute for Security Studies. December 2014 have noted sanctions work. Sanctions have cut Russia’s finances for engaging in war. Sanctions have hurt Russia’s international standing and made them less likely to want to go to war. Sanctions have forced Putin and Russia to engage in peace talks. This is critical to peace and to prevent war.</p>
At breaks in your speaking, take POIs Take questions ONLY at the end of a contention (don’t let them interrupt you). Respond to the question/argument with a concise answer that supports your case.	<p><i>“Not at this time” (when you are presenting)</i></p> <p><i>“Our policy does not cost money—it saves money because _____”</i></p> <p><i>“Thank you for asking, sanctions will actually help Europe because _____”</i></p> <p><i>--note you need to take TWO POIs unless they are bunched up right at the end.</i></p>
Conclude Prop Case: 1 or 2 short sentences asking the judge to vote for your case.	<p><i>We urge you to vote proposition to prevent Russian aggression. Economic sanctions are justified.</i></p>
After the 1P, Flow, help your partners, POIs	<p><i>Example Help: Hand 2P a clear, handwritten response to an arg.</i></p> <p><i>Example POI: “We reject Russia’s aggression. You appease their violence by not standing up to their actions.”</i></p>

Being 2nd Prop Speaker

Prep	<p>Get the tournament provided flow paper. Write the topic accurately.</p> <p>Prepare—1) know the contentions the 1P will present; 2) brainstorm—prepare responses against likely opposition arguments; 3) prepare a new prop. Contention that is different from the 1P.</p> <p>As you prepare, ask your partners for help if needed and communicate with them what you will argue.</p>	
Flow: Flow the first two speeches.	<p>Flow the 1P. Then, flow just the 1 Opp's main points—Mostly, flow your responses!</p>	
Help your partners, make POIs	<p>Example Help: Hand 1P a clear, handwritten response to an arg.</p> <p>Example POI: "Why should Russia's threats of retaliation determine our foreign policy?"</p>	
Intro: 1 sentence introducing the topic, often a "hook," a question.	<p>Why would you cave into a bully and justify that bully's misbehavior?</p>	
Roadmap: concisely state the arguments you will make.	<p>In this speech, I will respond to the opposition case and rebuild our case and provide an additional argument for the topic.</p>	
Refute the Opp Case Concisely state their main point State your response Make your arguments (use AREI)	<p>Go to the Opposition's First Contention.</p> <p>They said Sanctions harm the economy.</p> <p>Not so—sanctions protect the economy.</p> <p>1st, sanctions prevent economy harming Russian aggression (AREI).</p> <p>2nd, sanctions help Europe's econ (AREI).</p>	<p>Best Way to Respond</p> <p>--almost always, state the opposite of their argument</p> <p>--in a few cases, you say "that isn't important because"</p> <p>--in some cases, you say "our approach is the best way to address this because . . ."</p> <p>--in a few cases, you say "yes, this argument proves our case because . . ."</p>
At breaks in your speaking, take POIs Take questions ONLY at the end of a contention (don't let them interrupt you). Respond to the question/argument with a concise answer that supports your case.	<p>"Not at this time" (when you are presenting)</p> <p>"Our policy does not cost money—it saves money because _____"</p> <p>"Thank you for asking, sanctions do help Europe for three reasons _____"</p> <p>--note you need to take TWO POIs unless they are bunched up right at the end.</p>	
Rebuild your Prop Case Concisely state your Prop Case main contention Explain the reasons/evidence for your contention – "We showed . . ." Respond to their attacks against your contention Sum up stating what you have shown	<p>In Contention One, we showed sanctions prevent war.</p> <p>We showed Russia threatens Ukraine with weapons and troops and that sanctions have cut Russia's military money and international standing.</p> <p>They tried to argue sanctions would upset Russia causing conflict. That is the point—Russia's actions cause conflict. In fact, we showed Russia is aggressive. We also showed that sanctions have forced Russia to engage in peace talks.</p> <p>So, sanctions do reduce the chance of war.</p>	
New Prop Contention If you have time, add a new Prop. Contention --PROBLEM Show there is a problem and that the problem hurts people/ the environment/is morally wrong --SOLUTION Show the topic will solve the problem	<p>2nd PROP EXAMPLE NEW CONTENTION</p> <p>1. Sanctions would reduce Russian interference in our elections</p> <p>PROBLEM Russia has and will increase interference in US and European elections. (reason/evidence/impact provided)</p> <p>SOLUTION Economic Sanctions are key to reducing Russia's incentives to interrupt and bias our elections. (reason/evidence/impact provided).</p> <p><i>Remember that your arguments supporting the problem and solution should follow AREI with sources!</i></p>	
Conclude: Ask judge to vote for your side, concisely.	<p>We urge you to vote proposition. Sanctions are justified.</p>	

Being 3rd Prop Speaker

Prep	Get the tournament provided flow paper. Write the topic accurately. Know the contentions the 1P and 2P will present. Communicate with your partners and help them prepare.
Flow: Flow the first two speeches.	Flow the 1P, 1O, 2P, 2O, and 3O. As you do, be planning out your "VERS" points.
Help your partners, make POIs	Example Help: Hand 2P a clear, handwritten response to an arg. Example POI: "Why should Russia be able to annex parts of Ukraine?"
Intro: 1 sentence introducing the topic, often a "hook," a question.	Why would you let Russia cause such violence without a clear response?
Roadmap: concisely state the arguments you will make.	In this speech, I will provide 5 reasons to vote for the proposition.
For <u>each</u> voting issue . . . VERS!	What are the voting issues? Typically the Opp AND Prop contentions (main arguments) in the debate—sometimes 2 are combined into 1 voting issue.
Voting Issue Argument Make an argument for YOUR side of the debate. Usually based on the contentions/main points in the cases.	The first voting issue is Economic Sanctions stop Russian aggression. How do you make an Opposition Contention into a voting issue for your side? By picking your best response to it. Example—they say Sanctions harm the economy—your voting issue is "Sanctions are the best way to protect the economy from damage caused by Russian aggression"
Explain your Reasons Show the reasons and evidence you have presented in previous speeches supporting your voting issue argument.	We have shown that sanctions reduce money for Russia's military; that the sanctions weaken the hardliners in Russia so they won't attack, and that the sanctions distract Russia from taking aggressive action.
Respond to key opponent arguments that might undermine your voting argument Be sure to state your opponent's arguments VERY concisely—4 to 6 words if possible. Be sure to state the opposite of what they argument and show why you disproved their response.	They tried to argue that sanctions upset Russia so they become more aggressive. We showed that sanctions do not cause Russia to be aggressive—the sanctions empower moderates to stop aggression and leave them financially unable to fight.
Sum up and Impact your argument. Restate the main point and show how you proved or disproved the resolution.	The sanctions do stop Russian aggression which is key to preventing war. This is why Economic sanctions against Russia are justified.
After the voting issues, weigh arguments Show your arguments are more important than opponent arguments even if the other side wins some/most of its arguments.	Even if the opposition shows sanctions hurt Europe—we still show stopping Russian aggression is more important, that Russian aggression is a bigger threat to the economy, and that Europe can handle the small economic hit it is taking.
At breaks in your speaking, take POIs Take questions ONLY at the end of a contention (don't let them interrupt you). Respond to the question/argument with a concise answer that supports your case.	"Not at this time" (when you are presenting) "Our policy does not cost money—it saves money because _____" "Thank you for asking, sanctions will actually help Europe because _____" --note you need to take TWO POIs unless they are bunched up right at the end.
Conclude: Ask judge to vote for your side, concisely.	We urge you to vote proposition. Sanctions will help and put a stop to Russian aggression.

Being 1st Opp Speaker

Prep	<p>Get the tournament provided flow paper. Write the topic accurately.</p> <p>Prepare—by flowing your opp. case in the 10 column.</p> <p>As you prepare, ask your partners for help if needed and communicate with them what you will argue.</p>	
Flow: Flow the 1 st Prop Case.	Flow just their main points—Mostly, flow your responses!	
Intro: 1 sentence introducing the topic, often a “hook,” a question.	Why would you punish a person for trying to protect their friends?	
Background: 1 to 3 sentences explaining your view of the current policy/what is happening.	<p>Russia has gone into Ukraine, Georgia, and Syria to protect their friends and allies from attacks. The U.S. and Europe have imposed unjustified economic sanctions on Russia.</p>	
The Topic: We reject the topic, stating the topic exactly as worded	We reject the topic “Economic sanctions against Russia are justified.”	
Model: explain your position. --Define only terms as needed --Who will do it? What will they do?	<p>We agree with the proposition’s definitions.</p> <p>We reject economic sanctions targeted on the leadership of Russia and instead support diplomacy to solve problems.</p>	
Roadmap: very concisely state your contentions and that you will refute the proposition case.	<p>In this speech, I will argue first, sanctions will harm the economy and second, sanctions increase tensions and conflict, and then I will refute the proposition case.</p>	
<p>Opposition Contentions</p> <p>Opposition should have 2 contentions each with:</p> <p>--LINK Show the topic would cause a new problem or increase a problem</p> <p>--IMPACT Show this new/increased problem would hurt people/the environment/is morally wrong</p> <p><i>Remember that your arguments supporting the link and impact should follow AREI with sources!</i></p>	<p>OPPOSITION EXAMPLE CONTENTION</p> <p>1. Sanctions will cause an economic crisis</p> <p>LINK Sanctions would cause European economic crisis-Europe depends on Russian gas and oil and also trade with Russia. According to Foreign Policy journal, Russia is likely to react to sanctions by cutting off gas and oil and economic trade with Europe. Right now, Europe’s economic is okay but it cannot withstand this.</p> <p>IMPACT According to Forbes magazine, People will lose jobs, there will be an increase in poverty, and it is possible some of the debt ridden countries could collapse. There will be greater animosity between Europe and Russia—the risk of conflict would likely go up.</p>	
<p>Refute the Prop Case</p> <p>Concisely state their main point</p> <p>State your response</p> <p>Make your arguments (use AREI)</p>	<p>Go to the Proposition’s First Contention.</p> <p>They said Sanctions would prevent war.</p> <p>False—sanctions increase conflict.</p> <p>First, sanctions anger Russia increasing aggression (AREI).</p> <p>Second, sanctions don’t work (AREI).</p>	<p>Best Way to Respond</p> <p>--almost always, state the opposite of their argument</p> <p>--in a few cases, you say “that isn’t important because”</p> <p>--in some cases, you say “our approach is the best way to address this because . . .”</p> <p>--in a few cases, you say “yes, this argument proves our case because . . .”</p>
<p>At breaks in your speaking, take POIs</p> <p>Take questions ONLY at the end of a contention (don’t let them interrupt you).</p> <p>Respond to the question/argument with a concise answer that supports your case.</p>	<p>“Not at this time” (when you present)</p> <p>“Our policy does not cost money—it saves money because _____”</p> <p>“Thank you for asking, sanctions do help Europe for three reasons _____”</p> <p>--note you need to take TWO POIs unless they are bunched up right at the end.</p>	
Conclude: Ask judge to vote for your side, concisely.	We urge you to vote opposition. Sanctions are not justified.	
Flow, help your partners, make POIs	<p>Example Help: Hand 20 a clear, handwritten response to an arg.</p> <p>Example POI: “We reject the economic harm to Europe that sanctions will cause. Why would you hurt Europe?”</p>	

Being 2nd Opp Speaker

Prep	<p>Get the tournament provided flow paper. Write the topic accurately.</p> <p>Prepare—1) know the contentions the 1O will present; 2) brainstorm—prepare responses against likely proposition arguments; 3) prepare a new opp. contention that is different from the 1O.</p> <p>As you prepare, ask your partners for help if needed and communicate with them what you will argue.</p>	
Flow: Flow the first two speeches.	Flow the 1P, 1O. Then, flow just the 2 Prop's main points—Mostly, flow your responses to the 2 Prop!	
Help your partners, make POIs	<p>Example Help: Hand 1O a clear, handwritten response to an arg.</p> <p>Example POI: "Why should we threaten Europe and our own safety just because we disagree with Russia?"</p>	
Intro: 1 sentence introducing the topic, often a "hook," a question.	Why would you punish Russia just increasing tension and conflict?	
Roadmap: concisely state the arguments you will make.	In this speech, I will reattack the proposition case and rebuild our case and provide an additional argument against the topic.	
Re-Refute the Prop Case Concisely state their main point State your response Make your arguments (use AREI)	Go to the Proposition's First Contention. They said Sanctions harm the economy. Not so—we showed sanctions anger Russia increasing aggression. That is bolstered by _____. We also showed sanctions don't work. In many cases . . .	Best Way to Respond --almost always, state the opposite of their argument --in a few cases, you say "that isn't important because"
At breaks in your speaking, take POIs Take questions ONLY at the end of a contention (don't let them interrupt you). Respond to the question/argument with a concise answer that supports your case.	"Not at this time" (when you present) "Our policy does not cost money—it saves money because ____" "Thank you for asking, sanctions do hurt Europe for three reasons ____" --note you need to take TWO POIs unless they are bunched up right at the end.	--in some cases, you say "our approach is the best way to address this because . . ." --in a few cases, you say "yes, this argument proves our case because . . ."
Rebuild your Opp Case Concisely state your Prop Case main contention Explain the reasons/evidence for your contention – "We showed . . ." Respond to their attacks against your contention Sum up stating what you have shown	In Contention One, we showed sanctions cause an economic crisis. We showed Europe will suffer when Russia cuts off gas and oil—really damaging their economy, causing poverty and even more conflict with Russia. They tried to argue sanctions would stabilize Europe thereby protecting the economy. Wrong—the sanctions will cause economic conflict, poverty, unemployment—all things that destabilize Europe. So, sanctions do threaten the economy.	
New Opp Contention If you have time, add a new Opp. Contention --LINK Show the topic would cause a new problem or increase a problem --IMPACT Show this new/increased problem would hurt people/the environment/is morally wrong	2nd OPP EXAMPLE NEW CONTENTION 1. Sanctions threaten Russian willingness to work with the US on dangerous nuclear weapons LINK Russia won't work with the U.S. anymore to clean up old nuclear weapons they have—in unsecured areas. (reason/evidence/impact provided) IMPACT Unsecured Russian nuclear weapons pose a threat of terrorism and radiation (reason/evidence/impact provided). Remember that your arguments supporting the problem and solution should follow AREI with sources!	
Conclude: Ask judge to vote for your side, concisely.	We urge you to vote opposition. Sanctions are a bad idea.	

Being 3rd Opp Speaker

Prep	<i>Get the tournament provided flow paper. Write the topic accurately. Know the contentions the 1O and 2O will present. Communicate with your partners and help them prepare.</i>
Flow: Flow the first two speeches.	<i>Flow the 1P, 1O, 2P and 2O. As you do, be planning out your "VERS" points.</i>
Help your partners, make POIs	<i>Example Help: Hand 3O a clear, handwritten response to an arg. Example POI: "Why should we threaten Europe and our own safety just because we disagree with Russia?"</i>
Intro: 1 sentence introducing the topic, often a "hook," a question.	<i>Why would you punish Russia just increasing tension and conflict?</i>
Roadmap: concisely state the arguments you will make.	<i>In this speech, I will provide 5 reasons to vote for the opposition.</i>
For <u>each</u> voting issue . . . VERS!	<i>What are the voting issues? Typically the Opp AND Prop contentions (main arguments) in the debate—sometimes 2 are combined into 1 voting issue.</i>
Voting Issue Argument Make an argument for YOUR side of the debate. Usually based on the contentions/main points in the cases.	The first voting issue is Economic Sanctions cause economic harm. How do you make a Proposition Contention into a voting issue for your side? By picking your best response to it. <i>Example—they say Sanctions prevent conflict—your voting issue is "Sanctions are more likely to cause Russian conflict because they will be angry and they will retaliate."</i>
Explain your Reasons Show the reasons and evidence you have presented in previous speeches supporting your voting issue argument.	We have shown Russia will be forced to retaliate harming Europe with oil and gas shortages and damaging European sales to Russia.
Respond to key opponent arguments that might undermine your voting argument Be sure to state your opponent's arguments VERY concisely—4 to 6 words if possible. Be sure to state the opposite of what they argument and show why you disproved their response.	They tried to argue that sanctions only minorly affect Europe—wrong. It majority affects them—the oil and gas shortages and price increases will be dramatic. They also tried to argue that sanctions will create stability thus helping the economy. No—the sanctions will increase tensions by angering Russia and will damage the economy—creating more instability.
Sum up and Impact your argument. Restate the main point and show how you proved or disproved the resolution.	The sanctions will damage the economy. This is why Economic sanctions against Russia are not justified.
After the voting issues, weigh arguments Show your arguments are more important than opponent arguments even if the other side wins some/most of its arguments.	Even if the proposition shows Russia would reduce aggression, something we've shown won't happen at all, the bigger threat is to the economy—the unemployment, the poverty, the threat of instability in Europe. Sanctions have real consequences that affect many, many people immediately—not possible future slight chance of happening benefits that the proposition hopes for.
At breaks in your speaking, take POIs Take questions ONLY at the end of a contention (don't let them interrupt you). Respond to the question/argument with a concise answer that supports your case.	"Not at this time" (when you are presenting) "Our policy does not cost money—it saves money because _____" "Thank you for asking, sanctions will actually help Europe because _____" --note you need to take TWO POIs unless they are bunched up right at the end.
Conclude: Ask judge to vote for your side, concisely.	We urge you to vote opposition. Sanctions are a bad idea.

Points of Information (POI)

Points of Information are points or questions you present during an opponent's speech.

– POIs happen in EVERY SPEECH. – Speakers must take at least 2 POIs unless jammed into last minute.
--NO HECKLING ALLOWED ANYMORE.

1. You as a debater should make 2 to 3 Points of Information during a debate.

--Especially, do POIs during the part of the debate when you aren't speaking.

--Make POIs when you have a good point to make.

2. How to make a POI

--raise your hand or stand to be recognized; if there is a pause, you can say "On that point?" (asking the speaker to allow you to make a POI)

--if the speaker permits, make your POI; if not, sit down and keep flowing, writing responses, etc.

--POIs should not last more than 15 seconds—keep it concise.

3. Question POIs you should make

Ask a question about the other team's model.	"Who will do this training? Teachers? Administrators? Hired consultants?"
Ask a question to get them to concede a reasonable response or to a flaw in their argument.	"Don't some students just tune out during training sessions—just like they do in class?"
Ask a question to get them to agree to a point that you can use later in the debate to show you win.	"Won't it cost money to develop a new training program and to hire trainers?"

4. Statement POIs you should make

Make a statement that restates what you and your partners have or will argue.	"Training does not work. Every study shows the students don't change their behaviors as a result of the training."
Make a statement that responds to their argument.	"Training fails because the students who most need it, don't pay attention and are more likely to ignore the advice in the training."
Make a statement that defends and supports you and your partners' arguments.	"Training does not reduce costs. As we said, setting up the teaching materials and hiring people costs millions of dollars."

5. Important tips for your POIs

--Avoid asking the other side for proof/to fill out their argument unless you are nearly certain they can't provide it. (leave bad arguments bad so you can point that out after it is too late for them to save their argument).

--Don't go on forever with your POI, there is a 15 second limit and judges get upset with long POIs.

--Your POI can distract your opponent from their arguments—politely and appropriately be aware of that.

--Don't be rude. Don't interrupt the speaker.

--Asking 2, possibly 3 POIs, during an opponent speech is good. Asking more is usually too much.

6. Take 2, maybe 3 Points of Information during your speech.

--Don't take POIs in the middle of one of your arguments (you'll lose your train of thought).

--Tell them "not at this time" or "when I finish this argument" THEN when done with your argument, take their POI.

--Don't take more than 2 or 3 POIs or you won't have enough time and it looks like you don't have much to say.

--Don't take less than 2 POIs, makes you look unable to answer opposing points and VIOLATES the rules.

7. Make good responses to POIs

Be concise but complete.	"Trained experts will be hired to provide the training."
Be direct—think opposites or your side is best for solving when you respond to their POI, think about the arguments you & your partner made and/or will make.	"Most students pay attention and the training is designed to be engaging—students participate in group activities"
Support the response you make—AREI—but keep it brief.	"The cost is a wise investment. The training will save millions of dollars from high cost lawsuits and counseling."
Don't let an opponent POI for more than 10-15 seconds—don't lose your time to their POIs.	"Your 15 seconds is up. Training . . . (and begin answering""
As soon as you have answered directly and supported your answer—move right back into your next argument/refutation.	"So, training does change behavior. And as I was arguing, that behavior must change because students are being hurt currently . . ."
Be careful about "trap" POIs that try to get you to agree to something that seems obvious but is really a way for them to say you agreed to X and they are winning X so they win.	"Training is not costly; it saves money; it avoids lawsuits; it avoids added costs for counseling."