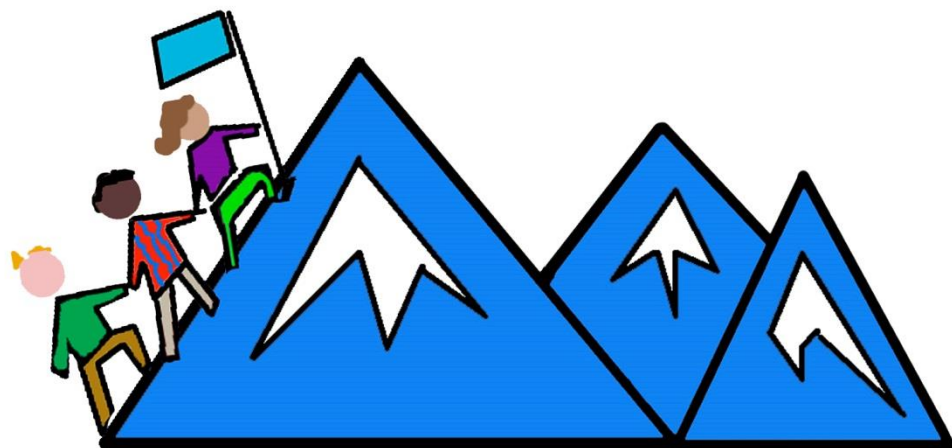


Public Forum Debate Templates

(for Middle School and High School Public Forum Debate)



Climb the Mountain

Speech and Debate Foundation

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How to make an Argument with a Quotation

What an Argument includes:

TCQS

Tag

What to do . . .

FIRST—INCLUDE THE TAG

The tag is a 5 to 10 word argument, a complete sentence stating the argument the quotation makes.

Citation

THEN—INCLUDE CITE THE SOURCE CITATION

**In bold (you read it)
Author, author qualifications, Date**

Not in bold (you do not read it)
Name of web page/article title, web address, (date accessed)

Quotation

THEN INCLUDE THE QUOTATION (

Bold underline the lines in the evidence you will read.

The unbolded part you don't read.

Sum Up

THEN INCLUDE Sum up—explain and/or show the evidence proves the argument/topic

Example

State initiatives have great success for reducing greenhouse emissions

Don Grant, Professor of Sociology, University of Colorado at Boulder, et al, October 15, 2014

Scholars Strategy Network, Effectiveness of U.S. state policies to reduce CO2 emissions from power plants: Research brief

<http://journalistsresource.org/studies/environment/climate-change/effectiveness-u-s-state-policies-powerplant-co2-emissions> (accessed 2/6/16)

In recent years, national governments and international organizations have struggled to address climate change through legislation or regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Meanwhile — **especially in the United States — states and other sub-national actors have launched major new initiatives that have shown considerable success in curbing electricity-based carbon pollution. The record of policy accomplishments in the U.S. states underlines the promise of decentralized strategies like the Obama administration's new Clean Power Plan — and suggests that Americans** determined to reduce dangerous carbon emissions without waiting for Congressional gridlock to lift **may be wise to ramp up bottom-up approaches.**

So, state efforts can succeed in addressing carbon pollution.

Or

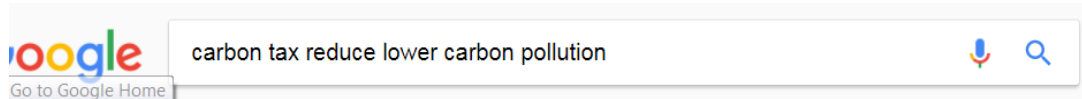
Since states can address carbon pollution, we do not need US federal government action.

Preparing an Argument

1. Use Google or Bing Search

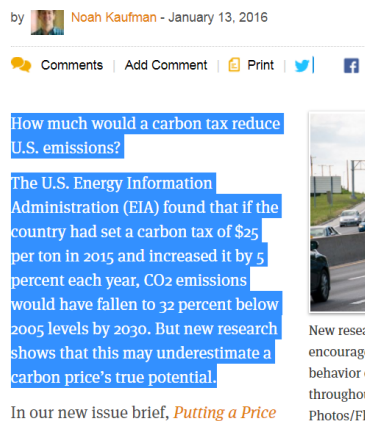
Think up the argument you want—eg “Carbon tax would lower carbon pollution”

Use the words in the argument to make your search (don’t just type in “Carbon Tax”). I did this search and got good articles:



2. In an article, select a paragraph or two that makes a good argument

3. Copy and paste into a document



How much would a carbon tax reduce U.S. emissions?
The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) found that if the country had set a carbon tax of \$25 per ton in 2015 and increased it by 5 percent each year, CO2 emissions would have fallen to 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. But new research shows that this may underestimate a carbon price's true potential.

4. Bold and underline the part of the evidence that makes the argument and supports it

5. Make the source citation

- Author and same with qualifications and date—usually at top of article, sometimes at the end of the article, sometimes on side bar.
- In a few cases, you'll find the author's qualifications by using the author's name link; in other cases, you'll need to do a search online or just say "writer for __web site organization__".
- The date in a few cases won't be on the page. You can say Date not give, accessed . . ."

6. Tag and sum up:

A Carbon tax would reduce carbon pollution by more than 32 percent

Noah Kaufman, Economist, January 13, 2016

<http://www.wri.org/blog/2016/01/carbon-price-will-reduce-emissions-more-computer-models-predict> (accessed 12/20/17)

How much would a carbon tax reduce U.S. emissions?

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) found that if the country had set a carbon tax of \$25 per ton in 2015 and increased it by 5 percent each year, CO2 emissions would have fallen to 32 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. But new research shows that this may underestimate a carbon price's true potential.

In our new issue brief, Putting a Price on Carbon: Reducing Emissions, **we outline the specific ways a carbon price** (meaning either a carbon tax or cap-and-trade program) **would encourage emissions reductions by changing the behavior of producers, consumers and investors throughout the economy.** We compare these incentives to the corresponding forecasts in EIA's model, and **we find that the model is likely underestimating emissions reductions** in important ways.

So, new research shows a carbon tax would cut carbon emissions even more than previously thought.

Case Template

Intro: 1 to 2 sentences showing the problem and introducing the topic	<i>Russia must be stopped from its aggression—it has attacked Ukraine, Georgia, Syria and threatens other countries.</i>
We stand: state the resolution exactly as worded	<i>We stand "Resolved: Economic sanctions against Russia are justified."</i>
We define: define only key terms	<i>We define economic sanctions as _____.</i>
<p>Our framework: explain how the debate should be decided with reasons.</p> <p>Whichever team _____ should win the debate.</p>	<p><i>Our framework is: Whichever team avoids war should win the debate.</i></p> <p><i>Avoiding war is most important because war kills people, leaves people homeless, and threatens people's lives.</i></p> <p><i>Julie Janka, Political Scientist, February 2015.</i></p> <p><i>Not real evidence, www.notrealvidence.com/whatevapeace.htm (accessed 10/6/15)</i></p> <p><i><u>We have a moral obligation to avoid war—avoiding war is the most important thing we can do—to stop the horrible loss of lives, homes, and suffering.</u></i></p>
<p>INCLUDE 1 or 2 CONTENTIONS directly supporting or rejecting the resolution—with each contention connected to the framework.</p> <p>USE TRANSITIONS—connect the points together with transition lines.</p> <p>THE ARGUMENTS SHOULD GIVE REASONS—explain in what ways it is a problem; explain why the resolution solves the problem; etc.</p> <p>THE ARGUMENTS SHOULD GIVE AT LEAST ONE STRONG EXAMPLE—this grounds the argument in a clear way.</p> <p>THE ARGUMENTS SHOULD INCLUDE STATISTICS/STUDY—this helps document that the argument is strong.</p> <p>YOU CAN MAKE LOGICAL ARGUMENTS BUT MOST CASE ARGUMENTS HAVE QUOTATIONS</p> <p>IMPACT EACH CONTENTION—show it is important and show it meets your framework.</p> <p>OFTEN, YOU'LL NEED TO SHOW THE RESOLUTION SOLVES THE PROBLEM</p> <p><i>So, show it—show how it addresses the problem.</i></p>	<p><i>I. Sanctions are needed to stop the threat of Russian war</i></p> <p><i>This is a serious threat as we show in . . .</i></p> <p><i>A. Russia has supported rebels in Ukraine with weapons and troops to fight and kill Ukrainians.</i></p> <p><i>Aurel Braun. Writer at World Affairs. July/August 2014</i></p> <p><i>Not real evidence, www.notrealevidence.com/whateva.htm (accessed 10/5/15)</i></p> <p><i><u>Russia is a threat to not just Ukraine but also to any country neighboring Russia. Putin has made it clear with his actions and his words that he will take aggressive military action in Ukraine and elsewhere.</u></i></p> <p><i>So Putin and Russia threaten Ukraine and other countries and this threat is significant . . .</i></p> <p><i>B. Millions of lives are threatened by Russian aggression</i></p> <p><i>Mona Lisa, Foreign affairs expert, September 12, 2015</i></p> <p><i>Not real evidence, www.notrealevidence.com/whatevarussia.htm (accessed 10/4/15)</i></p> <p><i>Russia's threat to the Eastern part of Europe and to the North of the Middle East</i></p>

	<p><i>is dire. Millions of people live in those areas and they are the ones that will suffer from killings, injury, and pain of Russian invasions</i></p> <p><i>This suffering shows we need action . . .</i></p> <p><i>C. Economic Sanctions halt Russia. Iana Dreyer and Nicu Popescu. Writers at European Union Institute for Security Studies, December 2014</i></p> <p><i>Not real evidence, www.notrealevidence.com/whatevasanctions.htm</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>Since sanctions work, we should support them to stop Russian aggression.</i></p>
<p>Conclude: 1 or 2 sentences asking the judge to vote for your case/the resolution.</p>	<p><i>I urge you to vote for the pro side to prevent Russian aggression. Economic sanctions are justified.</i></p>

Rebuttal Template

What a rebuttal looks like:

What to do	Example
State "Pro Rebuttal to Con Argument"	Pro Rebuttal to Con Carbon taxes violate the WTO trade agreement
State Your Rebuttal to the argument --usually the opposite of their argument	Carbon taxes do NOT violate the WTO trade agreement
<p>Make your arguments INCLUDE at least 3 responses with 2 arguments with quotations. FOR EACH RESPONSE, include 5 to 9 word argument tag, full source citation and quotation OR 1 to 2 sentences giving a reason for the argument. FOR ALL SOURCE CITATIONS: Author, author qualifications, date, title/name of book-web page, page number/web page address.</p> <p>--their argument is wrong --their argument is overstated --their argument is actually the reverse of what they say --their plan/proposal makes this issue worse --our plan/proposal is a better way to solve this issue</p>	<p>1. Imposing a carbon tax for all carbon cannot violate trade agreements We have state sales taxes; we have federal gas taxes—the carbon tax is NO different. It does NOT violate any law—it is consistently applied to all carbon production.</p> <p>2. Carbon Tax does not violate WTO/trade agreements Jon Clark, Mid-Atlantic regional coordinator for Citizens Climate Lobby, January 8, 2014, Here's why a carbon tax is key to fighting global warming http://www.pennlive.com/opinion/2014/01/heres_why_a_carbon_tax_is_key_to_fighti ng_global_warming.html (accessed 2/6/160) <u>Experts say this would not violate any current trade agreements "provided that policymakers carefully design a [carbon] tax, keeping in mind the basic requirements of the World Trade Organization not to discriminate in favor of domestic producers or to favor imports from certain countries over others... the threat of World Trade Organization challenges should not present a barrier to policymakers wishing to adopt a carbon tax system now."</u> This is according to Jennifer Hillman, who was approved in December 2007 by the members of the World Trade Organization to serve as one of the seven members of the World Trade Organization's appellate body, the final adjudicator of international trade disputes.</p> <p>3. Carbon tax can avoid problems with the WTO with multiple backup plans to assure there are no problems Jennifer Hillman is a senior transatlantic fellow at The German Marshall Fund of the United States, a partner in the law firm of Cassidy Levy Kent, and a former member of the WTO Appellate Body, July 2013, Changing Climate for Carbon Taxes: Who's afraid of the WTO? www.gmfus.org/file/3102/download (accessed 2/6/16) <u>Can such a carbon tax be applied in a way that does not violate U.S. obligations under the WTO Agreements?5 I believe the answer is yes, provided that policymakers carefully design such a tax,</u> keeping in mind the basic requirements of the WTO not to discriminate in favor of domestic producers or to favor imports from certain countries over others. <u>The key is to structure any accompanying border measure as a straightforward extension of the domestic climate policy to imports. If so designed, there should be few questions about the measure's consistency with the WTO rules.</u> Even if questions were raised, the United States would have strong defenses within the WTO system. And even if those defenses were somehow to fail, the United States would be able to make adjustments should some aspect of its carbon tax system be found wanting. <u>A non-discriminatory tax enacted in good faith to address climate change should pass muster with the WTO. Therefore, the threat of WTO challenges should not deter policymakers from adopting a carbon tax system now.</u></p>

Preparing Rebuttals

1. Brainstorm – Come up with a list of possible pro and con arguments/contentions.

If you've finished cases/contentions/arguments—have each person state their contentions/arguments.

E.g. Pro arguments: Carbon tax reduces global warming, reduces budget deficits.

E.g. Con arguments: Carbon tax harms business; Carbon tax hurts the poor.

2. Assign an argument to each person for that person to rebut.

Shane, make a con rebuttal against carbon tax reduces global warming

Annie, make a con rebuttal against global warming is harmful

Etc.

3. Begin your rebuttal document

Write "Pro Rebuttal to Carbon tax reduces global warming"

Write "**Carbon taxes won't reduce global warming**" make the font big

4. Find documented arguments to respond

Use arguments from West Coast Publishing evidence files.

Research on google/bing/etc. just like you did for making an argument.

Try to have at least 2 solid, documented arguments for your responses

5. Think of logical reasons that respond to your opponent's arguments

Use a tag (5 to 10 word complete sentence argument) followed by your reasons. E.g.

US Carbon tax won't solve because other countries will increase their carbon emissions

Other countries won't be taxed—and they may be able to export more products made with carbon emissions to the U.S. since U.S. companies will find it too expensive to make those products.

6. After you finish—share your rebuttals with your teammates!

Flowing Arguments

In a debate, take notes so you can respond to your opponent AND so you can remember details of what you argue. Flowing is how debaters take notes in a debate.

First, Flow an argument.

When someone presents an argument, write down the following:

- The number or letter of the argument
- The tag
- The source (usually just name & date, listen for the qualifications)
- The reason, statistic or fact the evidence has supporting the tag

As you write down these parts of an argument, use abbreviations. For example:

1. Handguns dang.

Jaboski '17


20% used kill; 1500 die; 30k injured

Second, Flow responses.

When you or someone else responds to an argument, you need to:

- Flow your opponent's argument.
- Draw an arrow from the argument to the responses.
- Flow responses including tag, source and reasons in the evidence.

Here is an example of flowing a response:

1. ELO hlpis cult.	 1. ELO divdes cult Jones ev – splits racially 2. ELO = anger/bklsh Venkosky ev – imgrnts upst, clsh, angr
---------------------------	--

The above "decoded" to read like it would be said in a debate:

1. English language only policy will help our culture	1. English language only will divide our culture Jones—our country will split in divided races 2. English language only will cause anger & backlash Venkosky—immigrants will be very upset, there will be clashes, anger, etc.
--	---

Note: Be sure to drop down at least an inch between arguments -so that you don't have to scrunch up your notes!--Doing the flowing and preparing responses

Flow while preparing responses

1. Write your opponent's argument on your flowsheet.

Do not spend much time on this (flow less thoroughly when you are responding)—instead, get to step 2 immediately.

2. Think up responses as you flow.

Use some of these responses:

- The argument is wrong—in your mind—say the opposite of the argument.
- Think! Which of my prepared responses/rebuttals answers this argument? **Get those prepare arguments.**
- The argument is irrelevant.
- The argument actually proves your point.
- The argument is less important than your arguments.
- The argument fails to prove _____
- The argument has this problem

3. Flow your responses.

Write down your arguments with the tags and reasons and explanations that you will present.

Flowing Tips

ABBREVIATE!

Clean Air Act CLA
Renewable Energy RE
Solves S

USE SYMBOLS

Causes = Does not cause ≠
Increase ↑ Decrease ↓
Change Δ Bad/harm ☹

TIP: CUT OUT VOWELS:

Clean: cln
Reductions: rdctns

QUESTION: What kind of paper should I use for flowing?

Use paper that is at least 8.5 x 11; many people use legal size 8.5 x 14; some people use 11 x 17 art pads. Lined or unlined? Most people use unlined but choose what works best.

QUESTION: Can I use a computer to flow?

Yes—you can use a computer (often a spreadsheet) to take notes. Most people find it too cumbersome, especially those reading files from their laptop. But, if it works for you, go for it.

I'm left handed

Cool. Many left-handed people begin flowing the first set of arguments on the right side of the flowsheet and then flow responses to the left as the debate progresses.

Presenting responses in a debate

What You Do:

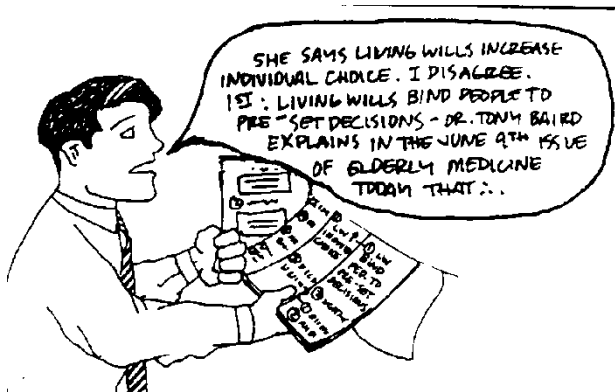
First, make sure that your responses are in order. That means they should be placed in order so that the files you will use against your opponent's first point are on top, the files you will use against your opponent's second point are second, etc.

Second, use 4 step refutation.

When you finish writing down your responses, you are ready to speak. Stand up to speak. Respond to your opponent's points using 4 STEP refutation. With four step refutation, you do the following:

1. State your opponents' response
2. Transition into your responses
3. State your responses (with a number, tag, and evidence or reason)
4. Sum up your responses and move to the next opponent argument.

To do 4 STEP refutation, look at your flowsheet and STATE THE NUMBER AND TAG OF YOUR OPPONENT'S POINT (STEP 1). Follow the arrow or line to your responses as you TRANSITION INTO YOUR RESPONSES (STEP 2). Then, look at the responses you wrote down and MAKE YOUR RESPONSES (STEP 3). When you finish making your responses, YOU SUM UP YOUR ARGUMENTS AND MOVE ON TO YOUR OPPONENT'S NEXT ARGUMENT (STEP 4).



Kurt uses four step refutation when he presents responses to his opponent's arguments.

Example

STEP 1: STATE YOUR OPPONENT'S ARGUMENT

Look at your flowsheet and state the number of your opponent's argument and the tag.

- "She says in her second argument that _____ (tag) _____"
- "On 2. _____ (tag) _____"

For example, you might say:

- "His first point is that the U.N. instigates conflict...."
- "On two, about open adoptions..."

STEP 2: TRANSITION INTO YOUR RESPONSES

Just state something like the following:

- "however, I would argue . . ."
- "but adoptions do no such thing . . ."
- "I have two responses . . ."

NOTE: Many debaters skip this transition step and just make responses.

STEP 3: STATE YOUR RESPONSES

Look at the responses you wrote down on your flowsheet. For each response, be sure to state the number of the argument, the tag, and the reason or evidence supporting your tag.

"First, HIS EVIDENCE IS OVERSTATED. His evidence is just one person's opinion, not a real study of the issue or a consensus of experts.

Second, EVEN SUPPORTERS AGREE THE KYOTO TREATY WILL NOT SOLVE GLOBAL WARMING

Nigel Purvis, Brookings Scholar on Environment, Development and Global Issues, Foreign Policy Studies, INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE, December 15, 2004, p. np.

After seven years in critical condition, the Kyoto global warming treaty has a new lease on life, thanks to its recent ratification by Russia. Supporters and skeptics alike agree that the treaty will not solve the climate problem. Its environmental limits are meager, expire in 2012 and do not apply to developing nations, where global warming emissions are growing most rapidly.

STEP 4: SUM UP YOUR RESPONSES AND MOVE ON TO THE NEXT ARGUMENT

Explain the main point you have made with your

responses and why they defeat your opponent's argument. Then move to your opponent's next argument. Example:

So, because of its inherent limits, the treaty will do nothing to address the problem of climate change. Now, let's go to his second argument where he argues that the Kyoto treaty will help the U.S. work well with other nations. I will argue first..."

(You continue with the 4 STEP process until you have hit each key point in your opponent's case.)

NOTE: Some debaters skip the sum up and just move right into the next responses.

Flowsheets for Debating

In a debate, you will use two flowsheets—the Pro Case Flowsheet and the Con Case Flowsheet.

Pro Case Flowsheet

PC-Pro Case	CR-Con Rebuttal	PS-Pro Summary	Pro Final Focus	Con Final Focus

Con Case Flowsheet

CC-Con Case	PR-Pro Rebuttal	CS-Con Summary	Pro Final Focus	Con Final Focus

Template for Giving Summary Speeches

Your job is to **defend _your_ case**. Here is what you do . . .

Use your Flowsheets to do your Summaries!

What to do	Example
VERY short intro with a persuasive reason -- usually short statements of your best argument(s).	Again economic sanctions are good—they make Russia rethink its aggression by making it cost them badly needed money.
For each contention . . . CERS! <i>Use CERS but please don't swear. ☺</i>	
Contention Argument Restate your contention number and argument.	Our first Contention is Economic Sanctions stop Russian aggression.
Explain the Reasons You have Shown "We have shown _____" followed by a quick list of reasons given in your contention making it a strong argument.	We have shown the 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 contention State your opponent's arguments VERY concisely—3 to 6 words if possible. State the opposite of what they argue and give reason(s) for your response (if you have time, you can read a short quotation supported argument).	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.
Sum up your argument. Show your argument meets the framework or proves/disproves the resolution and is important.	The sanctions do stop Russian aggression and we showed in our framework that stopping Russian aggression is the most important issue in this debate. It is a matter of preventing war and of keeping the peace to solve many problems in the world.
	Now . . . go to your next contention and defend it.
In last 15 seconds, Quickly attack their case	Example:
State your one or two best answers to each of their contentions. Say "We beat their Contention 1 by arguing x and y"	We beat their First Contention —Russia lacks the ability to backlash and sanctions make backlash less likely. We beat their Second Contention —Russia is hurt by sanctions—not European countries—they are barely affected.

Great versus Good Summary Speeches

Introduction with a good angle/reason.

Flat but okay: "Sanctions deter Russia aggression and help European economies" (flat because just repeats points and doesn't give reasons that resonate with the judge)

Great! "Sanctions put a cost on Russian aggression and get them rethink—to stop their aggression so they can get needed economic access." (great because gives a reason that will resonate with the judge)

Source citations and specific data

Flat but okay: "We showed sanctions empower moderates in Russia, thus reducing aggression." (flat because no specifics provided, no expert support provided)

Great! "Prof of International Affairs Stevens noted Sanctions empower moderates and when we did this in the 90s, Russia backed off of Georgia." (great because gives source and specific data)

Drops

Flat and NOT okay: "We showed Russia can't backlash and they discussed Russian history. Okay, let's move on." (NO NO NO! No mention nor emphasis of the drop)

Great! "We showed Russia can't backlash and our opponents **FLAT dropped this.**

Since Russia can't backlash—there is NO risk in sanctioning them—it can only help."

(Great because vocal emphasis on the drop and a statement of the importance of the drop is provided)

Pause and emphasis

Flat and NOT okay: "So we showed war is likely and now let's move on and talk at the same pace and rate." (NO NO NO! No emphasis. No pause. This important argument sounds like any other point. NO NO NO!)

Great! "We showed war is **likely!** (pause) We showed Russia **would attack Ukraine**—causing thousands of lost lives. (pause) This **MUST not happen**—we have to stop this! Sanctions will stop this! (YES! Emphasis given. Pauses provided. This argument now stands out. Be sure AT LEAST ONE of your arguments stands out in your summary speech).

Template for Giving Final Focus Speeches

Your job is to **list out the voting issues**—your case contentions and your best arguments against your opponent’s case contentions—and to **show your arguments are stronger/more important** than your opponents. Here is what you do . . .

Use your Flowsheets to do your Final Focus!

What to do	Example
VERY short intro. List out the 3ish main voting issues. What are the voting issues? Typically the contentions in the debate.	Again economic sanctions are good—they do protect western interests. We’ve shown that sanctions first, stop aggression, second, help the European economy, and third, actually prevent human rights violations in Russia.
For each and every pro and con contention . . . except that sometimes contentions overlap/are the same issue—if so, just have one voting issue for those repeat contentions. VERS! for 1:30	
Voting Issue Argument State “Our First Voting Issue is ____.” The voting issues State your Contention Title (voting issue for your case) or State your Best Response (voting issue vs. their case contention)	Our first Voting Issue is Economic Sanctions stop Russian aggression.
Explain the Reasons You Have Shown “We have shown _____” followed by a quick list of reasons given in your previous speeches making it a strong argument.	We have shown the 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. <i>Note: yes, this will somewhat/completely repeat what your partner said if done right.</i>
Respond to key opponent arguments that might undermine your voting argument State your opponent’s arguments VERY concisely—3 to 6 words if possible. State the opposite of what they argue and give reason(s) for your response (if you have time, you can read a short quotation supported argument).	They tried again to argue that sanctions upset Russia so they become more aggressive. We showed that sanctions empower moderates to stop Russian aggression. <i>Note: You typically have 1 minute 30 seconds to cover all of the contentions with your voting issues. Keep your VERS short! Go for just your best arguments and responses.</i>
Sum up your argument. Show your argument meets the framework or proves/disproves the resolution and is important.	The sanctions do stop Russian aggression and we showed in our framework that stopping Russian aggression is the most important issue in this debate.
	Do this for each contention/voting issue.
Then, in last 20-30 seconds . . . Weigh arguments Show that even if the other side wins some or most of its arguments, your arguments are more important. “Even if (opponent arg), (our arg) is more important because _____”	Even if the con shows sanctions hurt Europe—we still show stopping Russian aggression is more important to stop war and escalation in the middle east, Russian aggression is a bigger threat to the economy, and Europe can handle the small economic hit it is taking.

Great versus Good Final Focus Speeches

Introduction with a good angle/reason.

Flat but okay: "Sanctions deter Russia aggression and help European economies" (flat because just repeats points and doesn't give reasons that resonate with the judge)

Great! "Sanctions put a cost on Russian aggression and get them rethink—to stop their aggression so they can get needed economic access." (great because gives a reason that will resonate with the judge)

Source citations and specific data

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Pause and emphasis

Flat and NOT okay: "So we showed war is likely and now let's move on and talk at the same pace and rate." (NO NO NO! No emphasis. No pause. This important argument sounds like any other point. NO NO NO!)

Great! "We showed war is **likely!** (pause) We showed Russia **would attack Ukraine**—causing thousands of lost lives. (pause) This **MUST not happen**—we have to stop this! Sanctions will stop this! (YES! Emphasis given. Pauses provided. This argument now stands out. Be sure AT LEAST ONE of your arguments stands out in your final focus speech).

Crossfire—Asking and Answering Questions

Begin Crossfire by asking “May I have the first question” or “Do you want the first question.”

REALLY IMPORTANT—Try to ask as many questions as you can—while still giving your opponents the opportunity to respond. Taking control of the crossfire is a great way to win a debate.

ASKING	ANSWERING
<p>1. Face the judge—you are trying to convince the judge, not your opponent</p> <p>2. Use a line of questioning—you said this, right? Doesn’t that mean x? If that is true, that shows y, right?</p> <p>3. Avoid open ended questions that let your opponent answer with their own opinion or the ideas in their case.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">NO! “Do you believe . . .?”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">NO! “Don’t you think . . .?”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Such questions let your opponents say whatever they want to defend their side.</i></p> <p>4. Ask questions that force them to defend what they said in their speech.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">YES! “Where did you show. . .?”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">YES! “What proof did you provide for the argument . . .?”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Make them refer to or restate what they said in their speech—don’t let them state their opinion.</i></p> <p>5. Be assertive but not aggressive. Don’t make personal attacks</p> <p>6. Don’t be defensive. Try to show you are calm and collected even if you are nervous (which is common).</p>	<p>1. Face the judge—you are trying to convince the judge, not your opponent</p> <p>2. Do not pause before answering—try to answer right away—immediately.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Long pauses make it seem you don’t know your arguments well.</i></p> <p>3. Don’t just answer yes-no—add on explanation. Get out of just responding to their questions—use their question as a chance to repeat key points in your case.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Example Question: “Your proposal would cost a lot of money, right.”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Example Answers:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">NO! “Well, yes, but . . .”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">NO! “No.” (no reason given)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">YES! “No, it saves the economy money, lowers consumer costs, and is a good investment as our second contention showed.”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">YES EVEN BETTER—KNOW YOUR SOURCES AND SPECIFIC DATA! “No, the Stevens study showed it saves the economy \$2.3 billion, lowers consumer costs 3 to 7 percent, and is a good investment.”</p> <p>4. Watch out for lines of questioning and where they are leading—avoid admitting things harmful to your case.</p> <p>5a. If asked “what proof did you provide” try to respond with what you did show (avoid admitting that you did not provide proof)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Example Question: “What proof did you provide that your proposal is inexpensive?”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">NO! “Well, you’re right, we did not prove that.”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">YES “We have shown over and again that the proposal is a good investment that helps the economy and saves consumers money.”</p> <p>5b. If they press further, say “Make that argument in your next speech and I will respond” (allowing you to respond and to not admit you failed to prove an argument).</p> <p>6. Don’t be defensive. Try to show you are calm and collected even if you are nervous (which is common).</p>

Practice Crossfire!

--with another debater (or several other debaters), ask questions and answer questions about your cases and your rebuttals.

--maybe ask your parent(s)/guardians questions about the death penalty.

--think of a flawed argument—a weak argument with poor support. Now, ask a question about it.

--read a short article or short section of an article about the death penalty and ask a question about it to yourself.

Examples of questions to ask:

--ask them about missing proofs

Where did you prove _____?

Eg Where did you show anyone after 2000 and DNA tests has someone been wrongly convicted of a crime?

--ask them about arguments against their case to see how they will respond

Eg How is it moral to kill someone to show that killing is wrong?

Eg Won't removing the death penalty just mean dangerous prisoners will be left in jail?

--ask them to compare arguments

Eg Where did you show deterrence is more important than racism and killing innocent people?

--ask to point out contradictions

Eg You said vengeance is good but then you also said life imprisonment is cruel. Isn't that a contradiction—I mean if life imprisonment is cruel—doesn't that satisfy your belief in vengeance?

--ask them to explain their evidence/arguments

Eg How did they conclude 4.5 times as many African Americans were given the death penalty? Did they consider the type of crimes?

--ask them about their conclusions

Eg Do you really think we should kill people because it might lead other people to be deterred from killing?

Eg You've claimed several innocent people might have been executed in the past. Does that really mean we should end the death penalty today?