

# JCHS Speech & Debate



## *Public Forum Debate Manual*

### Speech Order

- First Speaker Constructive (Team A)-----4 minutes
- First Speaker Constructive (Team B)-----4 minutes
- Crossfire between First Speakers-----3 minutes
- Second Speaker Rebuttal (Team A)-----4 minutes
- Second Speaker Rebuttal (Team B)-----4 minutes
- Crossfire between Second Speakers-----3 minutes
- Summary Speech (1st Speaker Team A) -----2 minutes
- Summary Speech (1st Speaker Team B) -----2 minutes
- Grand Crossfire between all Speakers -----3 minutes
- Final Focus (2nd Speaker Team A) -----2 minutes
- Final Focus (2nd Speaker Team B) -----2 minutes
  
- TOTAL PREP TIME FOR EACH TEAM-----2 minutes

# SPEAKER RESPONSIBILITIES

1st Speaker Constructives	2nd Speaker Rebuttals	1st Speaker Summaries	2nd Speaker Final Focuses
<p><b>Persuasively</b> present your case.</p> <p>Being persuasive means:                      --Eye Contact!!!</p> <p>--Use inflection (speak conversationally)</p> <p>--Speak with passion and conviction</p>	<p>Respond to the arguments presented by the opposing team.</p> <p><b>KEY--Stay Organized</b>                      To stay organized, follow this process with each argument.</p> <p><b>Step One:</b> Signpost                      --“My opponent said..”</p> <p><b>Step Two:</b> State Response                      --“However, my response is...”                      --May or may not include evidence</p> <p><b>Step Three:</b> Explain Response                      --“My response defeats their point because...”</p>	<p>The purpose of this speech is to rebuild/ respond to the attacks made by the opposing side.</p> <p><b>Really focus on weakening the LINKS of your opponent’s points and strengthening the LINKS of your points.</b></p> <p><b>Step One:</b> Signpost                      --“My opponent said..”</p> <p><b>Step Two:</b> State Response                      --“However, my response is...”                      --May or may not include evidence</p> <p><b>Step Three:</b> Explain Response                      --“My response defeats their point because...”</p>	<p>Pick voting issues, or the issues you believe are the most important issues in the round.</p> <p><b>Step One:</b> Identify the voting issue (signpost)                      -- “The first voting issue is...”</p> <p><b>Step Two:</b> Extend evidence and explain why you are winning the issue                      -- “We are winning this issue because...”</p> <p><b>Step Three:</b> Impact winning the issue (using timeframe, magnitude, probability)                      -- “This impact will outweigh their impacts because of...”</p> <p><b>Step Four:</b> Signpost and restart step one if you have another voting issue</p>

# CONVINCING THE JUDGE

1. **BEFORE THE ROUND:** Talk to your judge—before the debate, it is fine to ask the judge if they have judged Public Forum Debate before. Most judges will be happy to answer. You could also ask, “I want to make sure I adapt to you, so I was wondering if there are any styles of debate that you prefer?”
1. **DURING THE DEBATE:** Watch your judge—some judges will smile, frown, nod, or shake their head, look bored or engaged, or give you other non-verbal signals that they like or don’t like the argument you’re making. Watch the judge and have your partner watch the judge to see what they like and dislike. Focus on that argument in later speeches, and you’ll have a great chance to win.
2. **DELIVERY:** all judges appreciate a good, logical argument...and all judges appreciate a speaker who has polished speaking.
3. **BE RESPECTFUL TO ALL:** all judges desire professionalism. In fact, some judges base their entire decision on this.

## HOW TO GIVE AN EXCELLENT REBUTTAL

### Questions to Ask Yourself:

- What arguments of theirs is the strongest?
- What's wrong with their argument?
- Are there some ideas/points in their argument that I should accept?
- How do their points interact with my case arguments?

### The Basics of Responding to Points (DRMO):

- **DENIAL:** "My opponent's point is wrong..."
- **REVERSE:** "My opponent's point actually works in my favor..."
- **MINIMIZE:** "My opponent makes a point that is not significant..."
- **OUTWEIGH:** "My point about \_\_\_\_\_ is more important than this point because..."
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## DEFENSIVE ARGUMENTS TO GIVE IN THE REBUTTAL

### **DEFENSIVE ARGUMENTS DEFINED:**

Defensive arguments are arguments that give reasons not to vote for your opponent

### **List of Defensive Arguments:**

- Attacking Evidence
- Attacking Arguments
  - Non-Unique
  - De-Link
  - Mitigate
  - No impact
  - No solvency (opponents don't solve the problem)
  - Indict (Evidence Attacks)
- Contradictions

## DEFENSIVE ARGUMENTS EXPLAINED

**NON-UNIQUE:** the impact will happen in the status quo with or without the argument. In other words, you simply show how their position does not positively or negatively change anything.

**DE-LINK:** the “no link” response says that your opponent fails to show how their position will directly lead to their impact. Your opponents must present evidence to show that their side of the resolution *connects* to the impacts.

**MITIGATE:** this argument simply diminishes, or makes the point less significant. When you mitigate something, you tell me why a point does not matter in the big picture.

**NO IMPACT:** the “no impact” response says that the argument of the opposition does not actually trigger, or cause, an impact in the real world.

**NO SOLVENCY:** the “no solvency” response says that the opposition fails to solve for the impacts they claim.

**INDICT:** this is when you are attacking the evidence

## Attacking Evidence

1. **BIAS**—look at the authors. Bias can be revealed in their job title, their affiliations, the manner in which they state their views. Evidence should be unbiased. If it is not, then point it out.
2. **DATES**—policy concerns itself with rapidly changing issues. If the evidence is old, then say, “their evidence is old and our claims post-date their evidence.”
3. **NO CAUSALITY**—if the affirmative makes a claim and says that one event or idea led to another, but has no specific link that connects them, point out to the judge saying, “their evidence and their claims do not correlate.”
4. **“DOES IT MAKE SENSE?” TEST**—attack the logic of the evidence when it is unclear. Or provide counter-examples and/or your own knowledge to attack the evidence that is unclear.

## Evidence Comparisons

“How do I persuade my judge to consider my evidence over my opponents?”

1. **Recency:** your evidence comes after theirs. Judge should prefer evidence that is closer to the day of the debate because time changes things.
2. **Empirics:** your evidence cites specific examples and is grounded in historical precedence.
3. **Expertise:** your evidence quotes experts of the field and can be trusted over that of your opponents.
4. **Better Warranted:** the argument presented by the author is better explained and justified.

## OFFENSIVE ARGUMENTS TO GIVE IN THE REBUTTAL

### OFFENSIVE ARGUMENTS DEFINED:

Offensive arguments are arguments that give reasons to vote for you.

### List of Offensive Arguments:

- Link Turn
- Impact Turn

*Offensive arguments are arguments that you should be making throughout the round. You have to give your judge reasons to vote for you. The more time that you can extend your points, the stronger your chances are at winning!*

YOUR CASE IS OFFENSE...DO NOT FORGET ABOUT IT!

## OFFENSIVE ARGUMENTS EXPLAINED

**LINK TURN:** this is when you show that your opponent does not actually prevent an impact, but rather they cause it. This is when you show that your opponent simply makes their own impacts worse off.

**IMPACT TURN:** this is when you show that the impact (or bad thing) is actually not bad, but good.

***Do not run a LINK TURN and IMPACT TURN on the same contention...they contradict each other!***

## THE SUMMARY SPEECHES

“How to think about the Summary Speech...”

**PURPOSE:** the summary speech summarizes the round by only highlighting the most important arguments in the round. This is your first chance to rebuild your arguments in light of the opposition’s attacks as well. This is the part of the debate where you ***have to make choices...what is important and what is not.***

### ***BEFORE THE SUMMARY:***

- 1. Communicate with your partner.** They may have heard or thought of something that you have not. Talk to them...see what their opinion on the most important issues is.
- 2. Weigh the arguments.** Begin to think about which arguments carry the strongest, heaviest impacts. Those are arguments you should consider using in your speech.
- 3. Decide which arguments to respond to.** Your opponent most likely attacked your case. Did they make strong attacks? If so, you need to read frontlines to rebuild the argument.

## THE SUMMARY SPEECHES

“How to think about the Summary Speech...”

### ***DURING THE SUMMARY:***

1. **Extend Offense (a must have element).** Offense are your arguments...the arguments that help you win. When you are responding and rebuilding, extend those points by saying, “Extend <insert point>” Be sure to extend:
  - a. Link Turns
  - b. Impact Turns
  - c. Case Offense (your contentions)
  - d. Undercovered Arguments your opponent did not respond well to.
2. **Weigh the offense.** After making a point, tell your judge why that point is important. What significance does that point carry? Why is that point the most important in the round?
3. **Extend Defense (if you have time).** Your defense is icing on the cake. Remember, defensive arguments are points that you have made that just knock holes in your opponent’s points, they are not reasons to vote for you. So, always focus on offense first.

### **HOW TO EXTEND**

**Signpost**

**Tagline your Argument**

**Restate/Re-explain warrant**

**Refute any counterargument**

**Extend Impact**

**Weigh Impact**

## OVERVIEWS & UNDERVIEWS

### **OVERVIEWS:**

- Should happen at the start of the **summary speech** and the **final focus**
- The purpose of an overview is to present the narrative of your speech. In other words, it answers the question, “What is your side’s overall position? What is your burden to prove, and what is your opponent’s burden to prove”
- **Why give an overview?** It focuses the summary and final focus. It tells the judge what issues you are going to speak on during these speeches.

### **UNDERVIEWS:**

- If you have time, underviews are given at the end of the **summary speech** and the **final focus**.
  - The purpose of an underview is to simplify and summarize what you just got done proving.
- Why give an underview?** An underview clarifies for the judge what the focus of the speech was, or what you attempted to prove.

## FLOWING ABBREVIATIONS

↑	Increase, etc.	Ⓢ	solvency
↓	Decrease, etc.	Ⓣ	topicality
=	same as, equal	Ⓟ	paradigm
⊘	No, not	W/O	without
⌢	Greater than	W/I	within
⌣	Less than	B/c	because
△	Change in	B/w	between
→	Yield or to	∴	therefore
Fx	effect	\$	money, cost, etc.
Ⓢ	impact/harm	A2	answers to--
		→	response
		*	drop (unanswered argument)

## Reminders About Crossfire ASKING QUESTIONS

1. **Work hard to be an expert!** Ensures confidence in the arguments. Be assertive and if you don't understand something...ask.
2. **Think Strategically!** What is the goal you seek in asking your questions? Do you want to prove the arguments raised by our opponents are weak? Do you want to show how they do not link to their own arguments?
3. **Ask questions about evidence.** If something sounds too good to be true...it probably is. Ask questions about the expertise of the authors (especially the solvency advocate).
4. **Politely Interrupt.** If you ask a question and fail to receive the answer you desire, politely interrupt and say, "I'm sorry, but you are not answering my question, the question was..."
5. **Don't be afraid to move on!** There is rarely a time in crossfire when you need to spend the entire time on one question. Ask, then move on. If you aren't satisfied with the answer they provide, ask again, but then move on.



## POTENTIAL CROSSFIRE QUESTIONS TO ASK THE PRO

1. Why is the European Union currently not investing in the Belt and Road Initiative?
2. How will the status quo benefit from the investments of the European Union?
3. What European Union Nations have already acceded to the Belt and Road Initiative?
4. Why is investment from the European Union key?
5. How does joining the Belt and Road Initiative provide benefits to non-European Nations?
6. Does offering greater investment in the Belt and Road Initiative give China more credibility worldwide?
7. How will the United States view the European Unions investment in the Belt and Road Initiative?

## POTENTIAL CROSSFIRE QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CON

1. Does European accession to the BRI negatively affect Europe?
2. Currently, is the Belt and Road Initiative sustainable?
3. Currently, is the Belt and Road Initiative promoting green technology?
4. Would China be more likely to negotiate with countries who invest in their projects?
5. Doesn't European accession to the Belt and Road increase relations among European Nations and China?

## Reminders About Crossfire ANSWERING QUESTIONS

1. **Exploit open-ended questions! Less is more.** If your opponents ask you an open-ended question (who, what, when, where, why, how), they are inviting you to showcase your knowledge and evidence. Take advantage of this—why? Because the more you showcase your knowledge, the more you waste their time in CX.
2. **Don't be afraid to have them repeat the question!** If you need to buy yourself some time OR if you genuinely do not understand the question, then ask them to repeat or rephrase the question.
3. **You have a partner for a reason.** Don't be afraid to say: "My partner will address that in the next speech?" This is an effective way to dodge.
4. **You don't know every answer.** One of the biggest mistakes people make is trying to give an answer to a question they don't know the answer to. It usually turns out POORLY. If someone asks: "Who is Mr. Blah?" It is okay to say, "I'm not sure, but the warrants are..."

## WAYS TO WEIGH IMPACTS

1. **Timeframe:** at what point will the impacts occur?
  - We should avoid the bad things that happen sooner, vice versa
2. **Magnitude:** how large in number are your impacts?
  - We should try to avoid the largest impact, vice versa
3. **Probability:** how likely are the impacts?
  - We should avoid bad things that are more likely, vice versa
4. **Duration:** how long will the impacts be felt?
  - We should avoid those impacts that last longest
5. **Reversibility:** how easy is the damage to undo?
  - We should avoid those impacts that are hardest to undo

Steps to <b>RESPONDING</b> to arguments	Steps to giving a great <b>REBUTTAL</b>
<p><b>Step One:</b> SIGNPOST (tell me what part of the flow you are on) --"My opponent said..."</p> <p><b>Step Two:</b> GIVE YOUR RESPONSE (counterclaims) --"However, my response is..." --May/may not include evidence</p> <p><b>Step Three:</b> EXPLAIN RESPONSE (tell me how your response neutralizes your opponent's argument) --"This defeats their point because..."</p>	<p>With each major argument that you clashed with (Topicality, Solvency, Advantages, Disadvantages, etc.):</p> <p><b>Step One:</b> SUMMARIZE WHAT YOUR OPPONENT SAID --"On (insert issue), my opponent claims..."</p> <p><b>Step Two:</b> SUMMARIZE WHAT YOU SAID --"However, we have shown..."</p> <p><b>Step Three:</b> EXPLAIN WHY WHAT YOU SAID IS BETTER --"Our argument is better because..."</p> <p><b>Step Four:</b> EXPLAIN HOW YOU OUTWEIGH --"As a result of being better, we outweigh on (insert weighing mechanism) because..."</p>