
Limited Preparation Debates

Splitting Up Prep Time – General Points

Split your time up into thirds; roughly 1 third brainstorming, 1 third formulating your case, and 1 third planning speeches.

Nominate a “Time Keeper” who will keep the team on track.

It is not acceptable for the neg to claim they were not prepared for the aff. It is therefore very important that the neg prepare well and use their time to formulate a flexible case that can be adapted to a variety of aff approaches.

Brainstorming

- You may find it useful to spend the first 5 minutes of this time individually writing everything you know (that relates to the topic) down.
- Spend the remainder of the time getting everyone’s knowledge together on one bit of paper or a whiteboard.
- Don’t just record fact, put down possible points and arguments as well.
- Try not to censor one another at the early stages of this process.

Formulating a Case

- From the material (arguments and facts) you have from the brainstorm it will be obvious what sort of definition is appropriate.
- Once you have defined the moot it should be another fairly simple task to review what you know about it and decide on a good team line. This is usually best thought of as a “because” statement. e.g. “That Bill Clinton was better *because he had cooler hair styles*”.
- Now review all the material on the whiteboard/common paper and divide it up into groups. The most common are broad headings like “social” and “economic”. These groups will be the basis of your team split so aim for three broad groups. The one with the most material should go to 2nd af or 1st neg. On either side the one with least goes to the third.

Planning Speeches

- Now go and plan your speeches, aim for three or four really well made out points rather than a collection of facts and arguments you merely repeat from the brainstorm.
- Remember, the audience weren’t at your brainstorm so they will need a lot of things explained in more detail than you might expect. Be sure to avoid simply naming examples without explaining what they illustrate in favour of your case. e.g. DO NOT say things like “and we all know what happened in Hiroshima” without explaining why this is relevant.

- Thirds do have slightly less to do at this stage so they should offer to help the other speakers and make sure they understand the major issues that the debate is likely to raise.
- Try to leave time (maybe five minutes) at the end of this time to get back together and check you're all on the same wavelength and that everyone's speech follows the team line and their part of the split.

Example

That Paul Holmes should be New Zealand's first President

Line: b/c Holmes has all the skills required by such a figurehead.

1. Public relations skills.
2. Current events/political skills .
3. Moral dilemma solving skills.

Paul Holmes has cheated on at least one of his wives.

Paul has over 11 years experience in political reporting.

Paul is more popular than any other prime-time news celebrity.

Paul has an experienced and tasteful fashion and makeup team.

Speech Planning

P-R-E / S-E-X

Manner

Cards

Volume, Tone, Pace

Ultimate Aim = Engage
Moots & Argument

Key = Affirmative: propose something, fend off negative
= Negative: Negate affirmative

Rebuttal

- Vital. Don't just point out when things are wrong, tailor your arguments so that they **make things look wrong**.

e.g. Weak rebuttal = pointing out other team called PM **Mr** Helen Clark

Strong rebuttal = taking fact or statistic and re-interpreting it to help your case.

e.g. Sure statistics show 20 and below drinking increased, but this is just b/c we now *know* about it as we can track 18 and 19 year old saes directly rather than through estimates.

- Also, aim to **tailor your affirmative points** to meet the material presented by the opposition.
- **Theme rebuttal** rather than going point by point. (**BOARD**)

Point: That the driving age should be years old.

Kindergarten students are too immature to manage cars safely.

4 years olds can't afford insurance.

Moots

Judgment - make a judgement.

Change – propose a change to the status quo.

Just two ways to think of moots – not binding or rule based approaches. By all means use the helpful guides these provide but steer clear of letting these guides dominate your arguments...

...Don't argue over the use made of the guiding principles these models provide – get on with the role your team has to fulfil.

[The NZ Schools' Debating Council thanks the Coaches of the Canterbury Speaking Union Team 2000 for making this document available.]