**How To Write A Case**

Write your cases like four to five paragraph persuasive essays! You’ll need an introduction, 2-3 contentions (main claims, supported by evidence), and a conclusion.

1. **INTRODUCTION** - in which you state what side of the resolution you are arguing for.
   1. Optional suggestions: Start with a quote (from a famous person or author) or emotional story, then write a transition that explains the quote and how it (or the story) relates to the topic.
   2. State the resolution
2. **CONTENTIONS** (Main Arguments) (100-200 words each)
   1. Each contention should include a claim, evidence/warrants, and impacts.
   2. **CLAIM** (about 7 words or fewer) *ex. “The U. S. is a world superpower.”*
   3. With supporting Warrants: 2-3 for each claim.
      1. **Include** **EVIDENCE** - These can be, data, statistics, examples, or even predictions based on human nature, historical observations, etc.
      2. **CITE YOUR EVIDENCE** Make sure you mention enough information about the source to make the source appear credible. It is recommended to include the date, author, and if possible, qualifications for the author. *Ex. A recent Time Magazine article said…*
   4. **IMPACT**–Explain why your argument matters. This often includes explaining how the claim and warrant tie back to the initial topic.
   5. Pro tip: Place your most important arguments first and second, in case you run out of time.

| **Example Contention**  (Claim): Cell phone users cause more accidents than drunk drivers.  (Warrant): According to a recent study cited in Time Magazine, cell phone users caused 13% more accidents than drunk drivers. All states have laws against drunk driving.  (Impact): To save lives, we should ban the use of cell phones. |
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1. **CONCLUSION** (brief) – Summarize your main arguments and link them back to the resolution.

**Case Outline: Affirmative (Pro) First Constructive**

**Speaker #1**

1. **Opening**: Start with an attention getter (anecdote, relevant quotation, etc.)
   1. I affirm the resolution which states “Resolved: [INSERT RESOLUTION]”
2. **Definitions**: Define any concepts or terms needing clarification from the resolved.
   1. For example: “young adults,” = 18-21; “required,” = by law; “national service,” = “A period of compulsory service in the armed forces or through another federal program that enables young people to pay back government loans through community work.
3. **Main Argument/Contention One:** The United States’ future relies on national service
   1. **(Sub point A)** 
      1. **Claim**:
         1. EX: “*Vast improvements could be made to our nation through compulsory service.”*
      2. **Data/Evidence** 
         1. *“The National Volunteers Institute projects that only one in twenty youth will voluntarily perform any type of public service or community work in 2012-2013, a downturn of 8% from the previous year.”*
         2. (Another bit of evidence from a different source to support same claim is strongly advised).
      3. **Warrant/Impact** (“So What?”):
         1. *“If this trend continues, and likely it will as more and more youth become increasingly self-centered and further disillusioned with the state of things, there will be so few youth performing community & national services that our nation will begin to deteriorate.”*
   2. **(Sub point B)**
      1. **Claim:** In light of the current deficit and huge cuts to social services programs, compulsory service is needed more than ever.
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)**
4. **Main Argument/Contention Two**: *“Compulsory nation service provides structure and valuable resources for young adults.”* 
   1. **(Sub point A)** 
      1. **Claim**
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)**
   2. **(Sub point B)** 
      1. **Claim**
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)**
5. **Main Argument/Contention Three:** 
   1. **(Sub point A)** 
      1. **Claim**
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)**
   2. **(Sub point B)** 
      1. **Claim**
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)**
6. Closing Statement: At end of closing restate your position.
   1. Example: Therefore, my partner and I support the Resolution that states All young adults in the United States should be required to perform at least one full year of national service.

**Rebuttal Speech 1 (3 minutes)**

**The purpose of a rebuttal speech is to answer the opponents arguments and the arguments against your case (if the have already rebutted your case)**

1. **Attack the opponent’s case**
   1. *Our opponents claim that (state opponent’s argument(s)); however, (give reasons/evidence why opponent is wrong)*
   2. *Follow by stating what this argument clash now means for your side in the debate.*
2. **[IF the other team has already given their rebuttal against your case, respond briefly to their rebuttal’s attacks to your case]**
3. **Conclusion**
   1. Speeches should conclude with a summary, ending in a closing like this: For these reasons (insert main contentions of your case), my partner and I reaffirm the resolution which states Resolved: [insert resolution text here]

**Summary Speeches (2 minutes)**

* Summary: why are you winning the round? Focus on one argument, beat back any responses, summarize the argument and weigh impacts!!.
  + If speaking second, be sure to summarize and defend your responses to whichever argument your opponent chooses to extend in first summary.

**Final Focus Speeches (1 minute)**

* Why have you won the round? Explain this to the judge clearly
* Be sure to weigh impacts! Impacts impacts impacts!
* Note: No new arguments or evidence allowed! Also, be concise. This is only a 1 minute speech!

**Negative (Con) Sample Constructive Case Outline**

**Neg. Speaker #1**

**Constructive Speech Time - 3 mins**

1. **Opening**: Start with an attention getter (anecdote, relevant quotation, etc.)
   1. I negate the resolution which states “Resolved: [INSERT RESOLUTION]”
   2. Example: I negate the resolution which states “Resolved: All young adults in the United States should be required to perform at least one full year of national service”.
2. **Definitions**: Define any concepts or terms needing clarification from the resolved.
   1. **Main Argument/Contention One:** *Example: Requirement, therefore, legal mandate, infringes on individual rights of American citizens.* 
      1. **(Sub point A)** 
         1. **Claim**:
            1. EX: “*Citizens of the United States are guaranteed personal freedoms that counter federal mandates for national service.”*
         2. **Data/Evidence** 
            1. *“The National Volunteers Institute projects that only one in twenty youth will voluntarily perform any type of public service or community work in 2012-2013, a downturn of 8% from the previous year.”*
            2. (Another bit of evidence from a different source to support same claim is strongly advised).
         3. **Warrant/Impact** (“So What?”):
            1. *EXAMPLE: “Mandates such as this Resolution deteriorate fundamental American values.”*
   2. **(Sub point B)**
      1. **Claim:** In light of the current deficit and huge cuts to social services programs, compulsory service is needed more than ever.
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)**
3. **Main Argument/Contention Two**: *EXAMPLE: “*Incentives, not mandates, will increase voluntary service.”
   1. **(Sub point A)** 
      1. **Claim** Example: “Incentives that help pay back loans granted for one year’s service will be extremely popular.”
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)** Example: “Therefore, community/national service will increase.”
   2. **(Sub point B)** 
      1. **Claim**
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)**
4. **Main Argument/Contention Three:** 
   1. **(Sub point A)** 
      1. **Claim**
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)**
   2. **(Sub point B)** 
      1. **Claim**
      2. **Data/Evidence**
      3. **Warrant/Impact (“So What?”)**
5. Closing Statement: At end of closing restate your position.
   1. Example: Therefore, my partner and I negate the Resolution that states All young adults in the United States should be required to perform at least one full year of national service.

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3. **Conclusion**
   1. Speeches should conclude with a summary, ending in a closing like this: For these reasons (insert main contentions of your case), my partner and I reaffirm the resolution which states Resolved: [insert resolution text here]

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* Summary: why are you winning the round? Focus on one argument, beat back any responses, summarize the argument and weigh impacts!!.
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Citation:

This outline format has been adapted from: <http://dansolit.weebly.com/uploads/8/9/6/0/8960127/building_a_public_forum_case.pdf>