**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.

**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.

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