# First
speeches

prep time in **opening** versus **closing**

- If there was a difference between opening vs closing, it can be summarized as this
  - **opening**: what is this debate about?
  - **closing:** but what is this debate really about?
- when you're in opening, it's critical for you to forecast the debate. What main questions are going to arise, and how do you best answer them?
- when you're in closing, you also forecast the debate, but you focus in on how some clashes will be very difficult to resolve within the top half, or how there's a temptation to focus on more obvious arguments while neglecting niche but impactful issues.
  - extension speakers should not pick just new arguments, but rather **winning** arguments

exercise i: forecasting the debate

THR the social preference for optimism and positivity
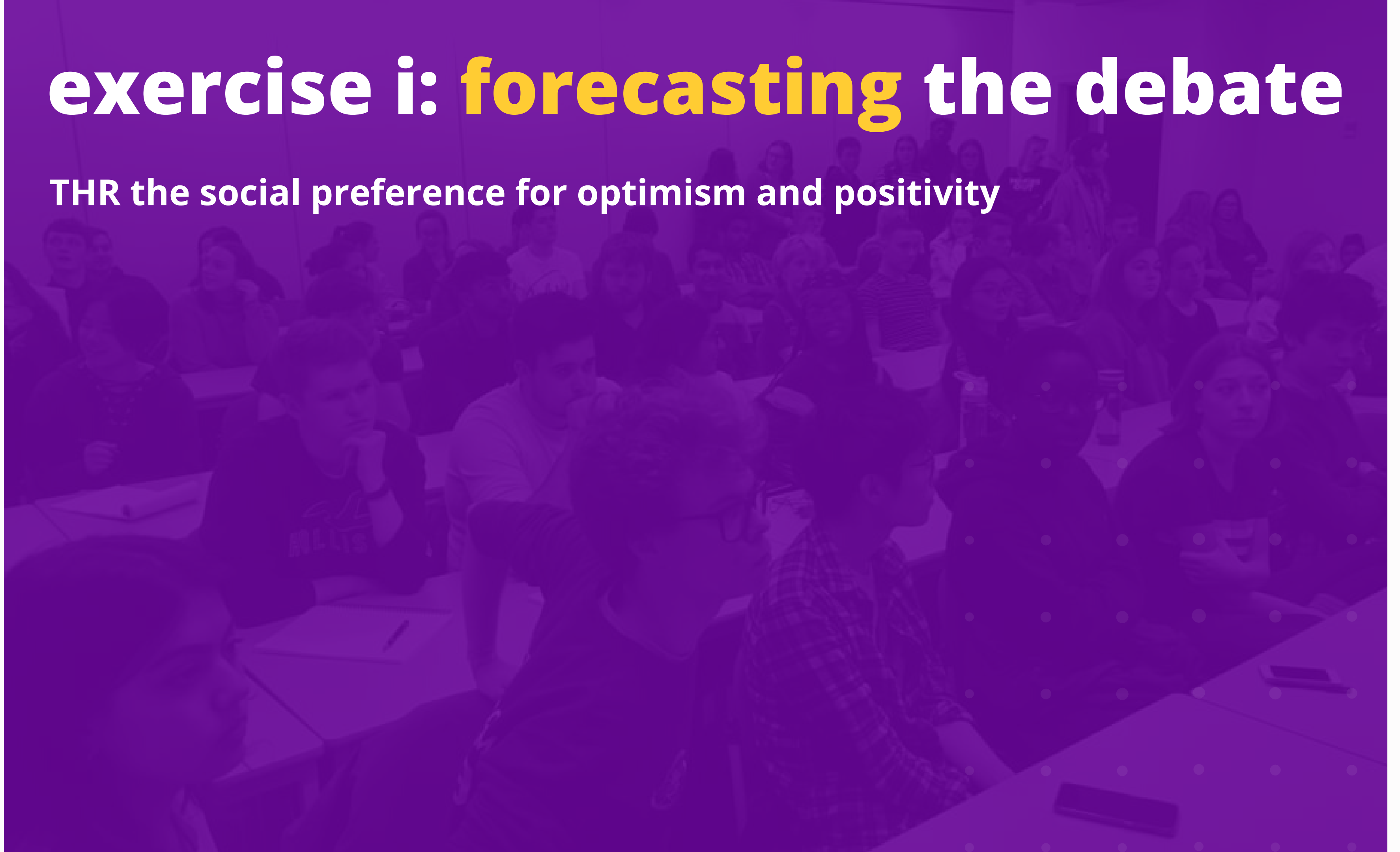
exercise i: **forecasting** the debate

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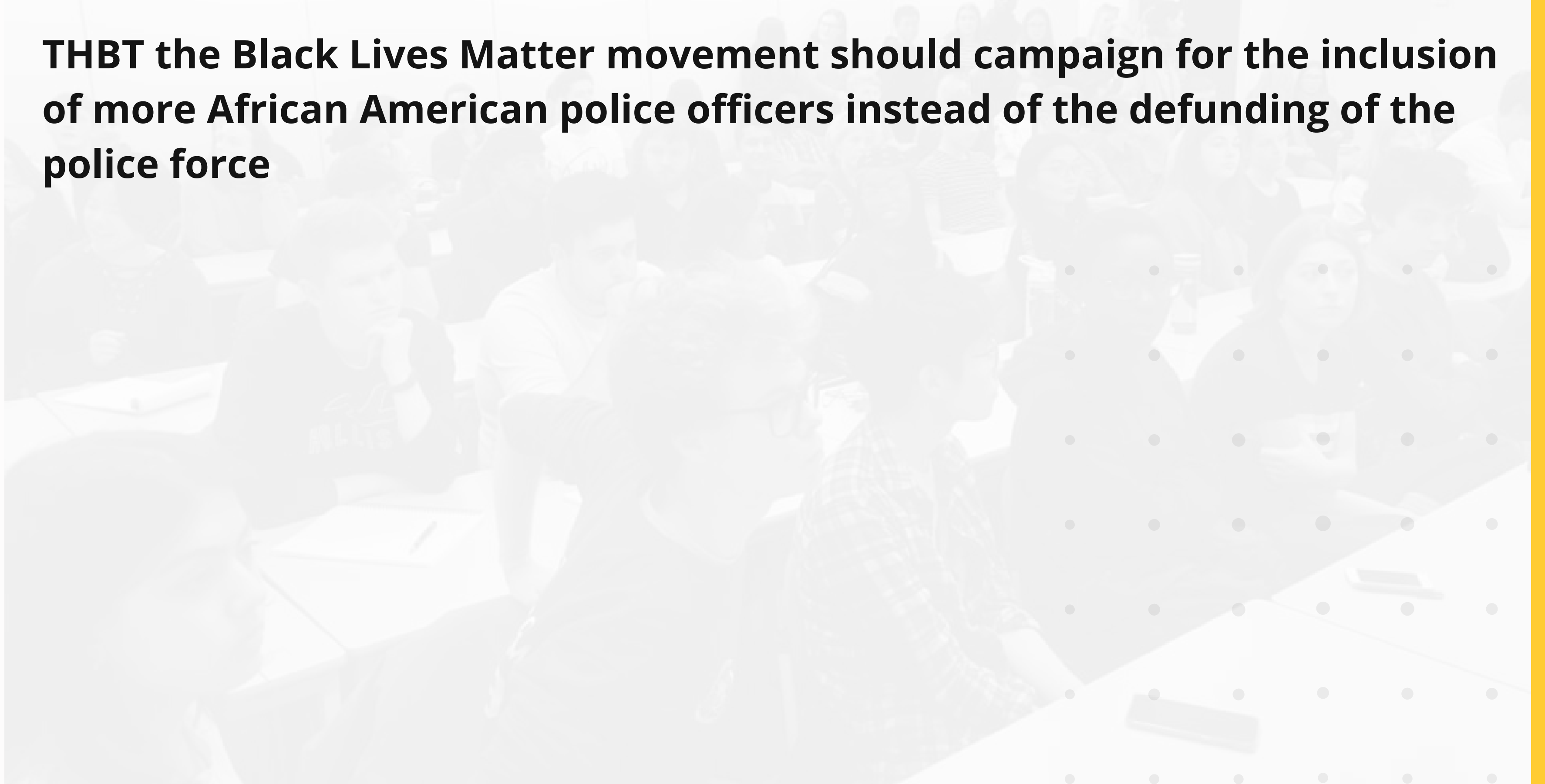
clashes:
- will this be a toxic level of positivity?
- is it preferable to the counterfactual – what will that counterfactual be (negativity vs 'rational neutrality')?

how to resolve them?
- what does this social preference actually look like? (i.e. Who creates it? How is it communicated and transmitted? How do different groups interpret/consume this narrative?)
- are counterfactual narratives created/transmitted any differently?

exercise ii: forecasting the debate

THBT the Black Lives Matter movement should campaign for the inclusion of more African American police officers instead of the defunding of the police force

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clashes:
- which policy will actually be passed?
- which policy is intrinsically more effective?

how to resolve them?
- **for opp:** what is the social context right now (what kind of ideas is society amenable to)?
- **for gov:** can black police officers inform policy or change how urban crime is understood/perceived?

how to do
opening half

- responsible for "**painting a picture**" of the debate
  - characterising the **current issues** in status quo (e.g. why does a specific problem arise)
  - characterising the **main actors** in the debate
    - hence, "setting the metric" of the debate
    - pre-emptively outframe all other impacts in the debate
  - insulate yourself from any re-framings
- don't be too clever – take all **obvious lines of argumentation**
  - run it cleanly and clearly
  - try to give as many layers of analysis as possible (i.e. reasons why your impacts are achieved)
    - opening half is prime position to matter dump (not much material to engage with and all the arguments to take)

how to do **closing half**

- how to take it over front half
  - point out **absences of critical analysis** in top half
    - flag new material
  - **outframe** top-half
    - re-characterise the more significant issues/stakeholders in the debate. What is critical is that you justify this reframing. Sometimes it can be quite simple (e.g. impacts on minorities probably matter more), or it can require you to give a different characterization of the status quo
- heavily **prioritise** your extension

how to position your extensions

- there are two extreme ways an extension can go down: **1)** It can completely out of left field (i.e. the debate before you was about something completely different), **2)** It can be so on-topic, it could be interpreted as derivative
  - all extensions fall somewhere along this spectrum
- in 1) there is a real risk of sounding dismissive/off-clash/irrelevant. Spend a **significant** amount of time carefully reframing. Don't just assert the "reality", spend time justifying why this is the reality.
  - "THS the creation and use of Lethal Autonomous Robots (Lethal Autonomous Robots are fully autonomous military weapons that can select and engage targets without human intervention)"
    - the debate could have only addressed contexts of war, but your extension is about policing (which you believe is far more relevant context for most people). **justify** why LARs will be used in policing.
    - ensure you still heavily engage/directly rebut with other people's arguments (don't just frame them as irrelevant)
- in 2), flag the exact piece of unique analysis you're adding right at the beginning, explain why it is critical to resolving an issue, and don't waste time re-iterating pieces of analysis that your other teams covered (even if it makes sense in the linear flow of your speech)
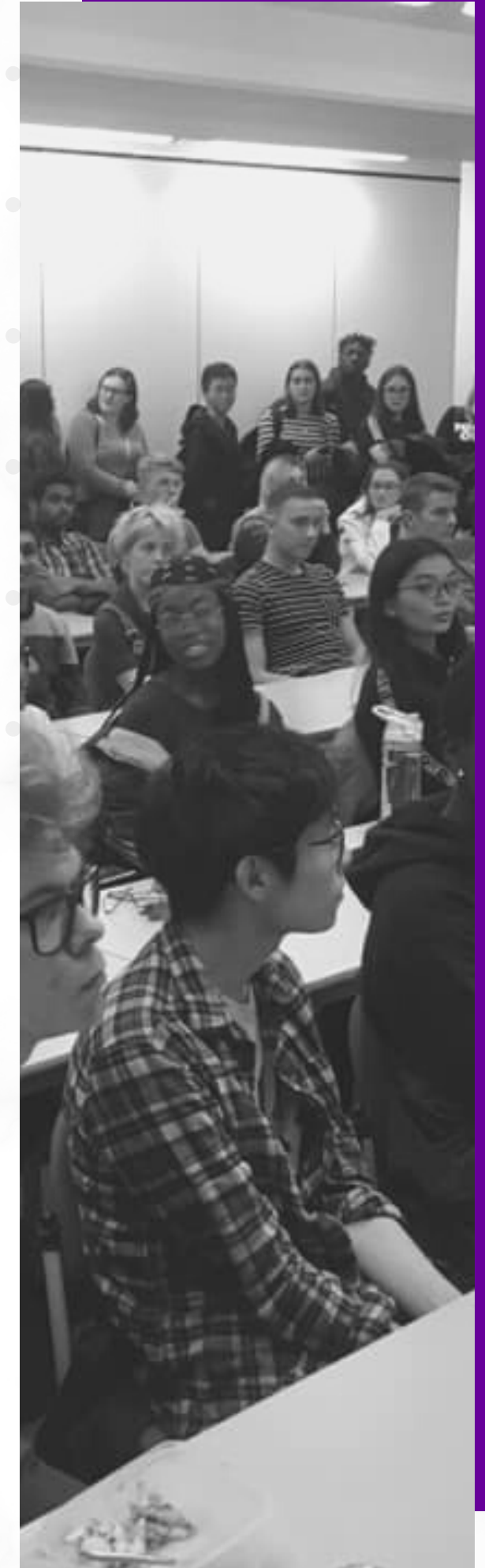
engagement as a 1st speaker

- engagement is still very important as a first speaker for;
  - showing that you're engaging with other teams
  - nullifying analysis that obstruct your arguments
- tackle the **biggest lines of argumentation**
  - don't rebut or engage with every little thing - to seem like you're being responsive and generous, identify the critical analysis that holds up your opponent's case and give robust, multi-layered rebuttals
    - in other words, go for depth rather than comprehensiveness
  - prioritise rebutting the analysis that **contradicts** your arguments
    - when there are contradictory claims in a debate, it is the burden of the later speaker to respond