

## **First Speaker of the Proposition (Constructive)**

**Goal:** *Set up your positive case in favour of the motion.*

**Intro:** Define the motion in a way that is fair to both teams.

**Step One:** Characterise the status quo and explain the breakdown and split of your case. (Make model clear.)

**Step Two:** First constructive argument.

**Step Three:** Second constructive argument.

**Conclusion:** Connect your points to the motion and hint that your teammates will further strengthen your case.

## **Useful formulations and phrases:**

"Dear audience, honourable judges, worthy opponents..." / "Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to..."

"The motion before us today is..." / "The motion today asks us to..."

"We will define the motion in the following way..."

"I believe that this definition is fair to both teams because..."

"I will now characterise the status quo..."

"Currently, the status quo is..."

"The status quo has the following problems..."

"These problems are significant because..."

"Our case is designed to address the following problems..."

"My teammates and I will argue that..."

"Later, we will explain just why..."

"Now, let's delve into our first constructive argument. We contend that..."

"Our first point of contention revolves around..."

"We firmly believe that our proposal addresses the inadequacies we've identified in the status quo. To begin, let's consider..."

"My second argument is that..."

"This argument is important because..."

"I will support this argument with the following evidence..."

"This evidence shows that..."

"In conclusion, I have argued that..."

"Our arguments have not only characterised the problems in the status quo but also presented a well-defined model for improvement."

"As we conclude, we're confident that our colleagues on the proposition side will further reinforce and elaborate on our points, providing additional evidence and insights to support our case."

## **First Speaker of the Opposition (Constructive)**

**Goal:** *Set up your positive case against the motion.*

**Intro:** Challenge or modify the definition only if necessary. Introduce burdens you have identified as necessary.

**Step One:** Introduce your own breakdown and split. (Make counter-model clear).

**Step Two:** First constructive argument. (potentially connected to a rebuttal of any appropriate points of Prop. 1)

**Step Three:** Second constructive argument.

**Conclusion:** Make the difference in cases clear for judges/audience. Highlight just how your team will put your opponents to the test.

## **Useful formulations and phrases:**

“Dear audience, honourable judges, worthy opponents...”/ “Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to...”/ “I join the first speaker of the Proposition in thanking you all for...”

"We agree with the definition proposed, though we want to emphasise..."

“Now, it is clear that the proposition must be able to meet the criteria for their motion to be successful/valid/true/desirable/justified...”/“While we accept the motion as proposed by the proposition, we'd like to emphasise certain burdens that we've identified as crucial in this debate."

"These burdens are significant because..."

"My teammates and I will argue the following..."

"Our case is designed to counter the proposition's case in the following ways..."

"We will argue that the proposition's case is flawed because..."

“It comprises [outline your breakdown], providing a counter-model that addresses the flaws in the proposition's proposal."

"We've organised our case into two key components: first, an in-depth critique of the proposition's model, and second, our alternative approach."

"Now, let's delve into our first constructive argument, which also serves as a rebuttal to certain points raised by the proposition's first speaker."

"Our first constructive argument challenges the assumptions made by the proposition. We assert that [summarise your first argument and its relevance to Proposition 1's points]."

"We believe it's essential to critically examine [the main points of Proposition 1], as these form the basis of our counter-argument."

“Now, My second constructive argument is that...”

"This argument is important because..."

"I will support this argument with the following evidence..."

"This evidence shows that..."

"In conclusion, we've not only unsettled our opponent's premises, we've also... /we've provided a clear counter-model that addresses the shortcomings in the proposition's proposal."

## Second Speaker of the Proposition (Constructive)

**Goal:** *Extend your positive case in favour of the motion*

**Intro:** Acknowledge opponents' case and indicate how your team will engage. (Deal with any remaining definitional challenges and find a reasonable solution for all).

**Step One:** First constructive argument. (potentially connected to a rebuttal of any appropriate points of Opp. 1)

**Step Two:** Second constructive argument.

**Step Three:** Third constructive argument.

**Conclusion:** Connect your points back to the motion and your first speaker, then forwards to your teammates to come.

## Useful formulations and phrases:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we have already heard..."

"Thank you for the opportunity of adding to the case my colleague already began with..."

"Before delving into our constructive arguments, let's acknowledge the points made by the opposition and clarify our approach to engage with their case."

"I would like to address the suggested emphasis on defining X in the following way..."

"I believe that this solution is reasonable for both teams..."

"While respecting the opposition's case, we will demonstrate how the motion..."

"My first argument serves as a neat counter to the first speaker of the opposition's point that ..."

"This argument is important because..."

"We can see this evidenced in the fact that..."/"This evidence shows that..."

"My second argument builds on the foundation of our case and provides additional evidence in favour of our proposal."/"Additionally, we will introduce our second argument, which extends and strengthens our position."/"Incorporating our second argument into our case reinforces the comprehensive nature of our proposal."

"My third argument completes our case, highlighting the multi-faceted advantages of our proposal."/"We will conclude our constructive arguments with the third point, showcasing the well-rounded nature of our approach."/"Incorporating our third argument demonstrates the depth and breadth of our proposal."

"In conclusion, I have argued that..."/"My teammate and I have shown that..."

"Our case easily addresses the challenges raised by the opposition."

"We look forward to our teammates' contributions, which will further bolster our position and provide a holistic view of our proposal."

## **Second Speaker of the Opposition (Constructive)**

**Goal:** *Extend your positive case against the motion*

**Intro:** Make clear your full, fair understanding of the opponents' constructive case. Outline how you are going to prove it does not meet the burden of proof.

**Step One:** First constructive argument. (Including clear rebuttal of opponents' arguments)

**Step Two:** Second constructive argument. (Including clear rebuttal of opponents' arguments)

**Step Three:** Third constructive argument.

**Conclusion:** Refer back to your case and how you have supported it. Refer back to your burdens and how your opponents cannot satisfy the burden of proof.

## **Useful formulations and phrases:**

"Ladies and Gentlemen, we have already heard..." / "Thank you for the opportunity of adding to the case my colleague already began with..."

"We have all carefully considered the proposition's case, and it's crucial to begin by acknowledging their constructive arguments. However, upon closer examination, we see that their case falls short of the burden of proof."

"The proposition's case is flawed in the following ways..."

"I will prove that the proposition's case does not meet the burden of proof by interrogating the motion thoroughly and fairly."

"My first constructive argument challenges the core of the proposition's case, itself providing a strong counterpoint to their primary points."

"My second argument builds on the foundation of our case and provides additional evidence in favour of our proposal." / "Additionally, we will introduce our second argument, which extends and strengthens our position." / "Incorporating our second argument into our case reinforces the comprehensive nature of our proposal."

"In this final segment, I would like to emphasise that we do believe in X, however Y is simply not..."

"We see this time and time again and the Proposition cannot make a credible case why anyone should believe this time is different".

"Our case stands strong, supported by well-reasoned arguments and substantial evidence. We have effectively countered the proposition's claims, illustrating why their position falls short." / "As we conclude, it is evident that the proposition has not satisfied the burden of proof in this debate. We have provided a compelling alternative perspective, firmly establishing our stance on the motion."

"In conclusion, this is clearly a choice between X and Y. We firmly believe we haven't proved that X is the only rational option."

## **Third Speaker of the Opposition (Rebuttal)**

**Goal:** *You must respond to both the proposition constructive arguments and rebuttals in a way which strengthens your case.*

**Intro:** Take a step back and summarise the to-and-fro of arguments so far, reminding the audience of how each of your points has countered and surpassed those of the Proposition.

**Step One:** Rebuttal of opponents' constructive arguments.

**Step Two:** Rebuttal of opponents' rebuttals.

**Step Three:** Any final small constructive arguments, particularly concrete facts and examples to support your case.

**Conclusion:** Tie all steps of rebuttal back to your case and your standard for showing burden of proof.

## **Useful formulations and phrases:**

"Dear Audience, judges, opponents. So far we have heard..."

"As we move forward, it's essential to recollect the key exchanges in this debate. Our case has consistently addressed the shortcomings in the Proposition's arguments, and we will reaffirm this in our closing statements."

"First, let's address the core arguments presented by the Proposition. We have demonstrated that their constructive arguments are lacking in [specific aspect], and here's why."

"In response to the Proposition's constructive case, we have consistently argued that [highlight key weaknesses], which undermines their ability to satisfy the burden of proof."

"Our refutation of the Proposition's constructive arguments is rooted in a careful examination of [specific points], showing why they fall short."

"In the responses offered by the Proposition so far, they have attempted to counter our arguments, but we maintain that their responses lack substance and here's why..."

"As a final addition to our case, I would like to present the situation we see in [additional concrete facts and examples that strengthen your position.]"

"These examples illustrate [specific aspect of your case]."

"The Proposition's main arguments are thus flawed on a number of levels and it would be unwise..."

"I hope, Ladies and Gentlemen, you agree with me that the evidence presented by our opponents is anything but watertight."

"They cannot show X, they cannot prove Y. The motion cannot stand."

## **Third Speaker of the Proposition (Rebuttal)**

**Goal:** *You must respond to both the opposition constructive arguments and rebuttals in a way which strengthens your case.*

**Intro:** Make clear the fundamental challenge set up by the Opposition and why your team has and will successfully overcome it.

**Step One:** Rebuttal of opponents' constructive arguments.

**Step Two:** Rebuttal of opponents' rebuttals.

**Step Three:** Any final small constructive arguments, particularly concrete facts and examples to support your case.

**Conclusion:** Tie all steps of rebuttal back to your case and the motion.

## **Useful formulations and phrases:**

"Ladies and Gentlemen, despite their best efforts, the Opposition simply cannot make a convincing case why..."

"The heart of the Opposition's argument lies in their critique of [specific aspect of your case]. We understand this challenge, and I will demonstrate how our team has effectively navigated this obstacle, emerging stronger in our position."/"The Opposition has raised a significant concern regarding [specific aspect of your case]. This challenge has driven us to delve deeper into our arguments and refine our position, ensuring that we not only address their concerns but also strengthen our case."

"Let's begin by dissecting the core of the Opposition's case. While they argue [specific point], our analysis reveals that their argument lacks depth because [provide a counter-argument]."

"In response to the Opposition's constructive arguments, we have systematically dismantled their points. For instance, their claim about [specific point] overlooks [provide counter-evidence], rendering their argument invalid."

"Addressing the Opposition's rebuttals, it is clear that their attempts to weaken our arguments lack substance. For instance, their response to [specific point] fails to consider [provide a counter-response], highlighting the inadequacy of their rebuttal."

"As a final reinforcement of our case, allow me to provide compelling examples and facts that underline [specific aspects of your case]. These real-world instances emphasize the feasibility and impact of our proposal, solidifying our position. Take X, or Y..."

"In conclusion, our case has withstood the Opposition's challenges and emerged stronger. Our successful rebuttals, supported by concrete examples, have not only countered their arguments but have also reinforced our position on the motion."

"Our opponents, on the other hand, have constructed a case founded on shaky premises and supported by, I think you'll agree, fairly thin arguments."

## **Fourth Speaker of the Opposition (Summary)**

**Goal:** Summarise the proceedings and leave no doubt that you have tackled the strongest Proposition arguments.

**Intro:** Remind audience what the fundamental points of clash are.

**Step One:** Rebuttal of previous speaker.

**Step Two:** First summary of opponents' case and your responses.

**Step Three:** Second summary of opponents' case and your responses.

**Conclusion:** Make clear why your opposition to the motion is the logical stance to take.

## **Useful formulations and phrases:**

"Dear audience, honourable judges, worthy opponents..." / "Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to close my team's argumentation..." / "Thank you for the opportunity to present the closing argument of our case..."

"Before we proceed, let's recall the key points of contention in this debate. The fundamental points at the heart of this discussion are [list the main points of clash], and these are what we will address in our final arguments."

"Before we delve into our final summary, let's address the rebuttal provided by the previous speaker. While they raised valid points, there are essential aspects that require clarification. For instance, [provide a specific rebuttal]."/"In response to the previous speaker's arguments, it's important to acknowledge their contribution. However, we maintain that their analysis overlooked [specific aspect], which is central to this debate."

"Let's begin by summarising the key points of the Proposition's case. They argued [list the main points of the opponents' case], and in response, our team has consistently demonstrated that [provide a concise summary of your responses]."/"In reviewing the Proposition's case, we find that they emphasised [list the key aspects of the opposition's case]. However, our rebuttals have shown that [provide a concise summary of your counterarguments]."

"Continuing with our summary, the Proposition also presented [list additional arguments of the opposition]. Yet, our responses have underscored that [provide a concise summary of your counterarguments]."

"In conclusion, it's evident that the Proposition's arguments, while valid, do not make the case for the motion. Our consistent rebuttals and thorough analysis have shown that opposing the motion is the logical stance to take because [reiterate your key points and reasoning]."

"After carefully describing X, explaining Y and proving Z, it is clear that [negative expression of motion]."

## Fourth Speaker of the Proposition (Summary)

**Goal:** Summarise the proceedings and leave no doubt that your case stands.

**Intro:** Remind audience what the fundamental reasoning behind the motion is.

**Step One:** Rebuttal of previous speaker.

**Step Two:** First summary of your case, accounting for opponent's responses.

**Step Three:** Second summary of your case, accounting for opponent's responses.

**Conclusion:** Make clear why it is logical and vital that the motion pass.

## Useful formulations and phrases:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, worthy opponents and judges, I have the honour of closing this afternoon's proceedings." / "Dear audience, judges, opponents and all who have contributed to this stimulating afternoon debate, it is my privilege to..."

"As we approach the conclusion of this debate, let's revisit the fundamental reasoning behind the motion. The core essence of our stance lies in [briefly state the fundamental reasoning behind the motion]. It is this rationale that underscores the necessity of the motion we're advocating for today."

"While the previous speaker raised valid concerns, there are crucial nuances they overlooked, particularly in the area of [specific point]. Our analysis reveals that [provide your rebuttal], reinforcing our position on this matter."

"Our initial argument revolved around [state your main argument]. The opponent attempted to challenge this by [mention opponent's response], but our case withstands this critique due to [provide your response, emphasising the strength of your evidence or logic]."/"When considering our main argument, which is [state your main argument], the opponent attempted to cast doubt by [mention opponent's response]. However, upon closer examination, it's clear that [provide your rebuttal, emphasising why your argument prevails]."

"Lastly, our argument regarding [state your third main argument] faced opposition from the opponent, who argued [mention opponent's response]. However, upon careful consideration, it becomes apparent that [provide your response, highlighting the integrity of your evidence or reasoning]."

"In conclusion, the logic behind the motion is irrefutable. It is not merely a desirable course of action; it is an imperative step forward. The vitality of this motion passing cannot be overstated. By it, we are not just endorsing an idea; we are championing a logical necessity that aligns with [reiterate the fundamental reasoning behind the motion]. It is this rationality that compels us to urge you to affirm this motion today."