

Argumentation 101

With dozens of eager delegates wanting to speak, it's extremely vital that your 60 seconds of speaking time is as well constructed, substantial, and significant as possible. But beyond that, even when your speeches take an unexpected turn, you should be able to formulate your arguments in a convincing manner right on the spot.

Purpose of arguments

Your arguments, at all times, should progress the debate forward either in depth or breadth and deliver at least one of the following:

1. **Introduction to a new problem**
2. **Further analysis on the current problem**
3. **Introduction of a new perspective on the current problem**
4. **Introduction to a new solution**
5. **Further analysis on the current solution**
6. **Introduction of a new perspective on the current solution**

How to structure arguments (for both problems and solutions)

1. Premise

1. main idea of the argument; what you are trying to prove or bring light to
2. e.g. "Raising corporate tax will cause backlash from corporations"

2. Logic

1. the grounds that your argument stands on; reasoning behind why your premise is real/ will happen
2. e.g. "Corporations' number one priority is making profit as they cannot survive without it. Higher corporate taxes mean less profit for the corporations, in result, harming its number one priority. No one likes having their priorities harmed, even more true for corporations involved in billions of dollars. Hence, backlash from corporations will occur if we raise corporate tax"

3. Evidence / Example

1. Tangible example to help others envision what your argument looks like in real life situations
2. e.g. "Before John Horgan and the NDP even raised corporate taxes, both big and small businesses in BC are sharing their concerns and difficulties if corporate taxes were to be raised"



How to fill time

Often times, you will find yourself short of filling time, especially for improvised speeches. There are couple tricks you can use to fill time in a professional manner. Do not depend on these tricks to carry your speeches. Your speeches need substantial argumentative material to progress the debate forward.

1. Repeat impactful statements

1. "Ladies and gentlemen, child labour is an unbelievable crime. It's an UNFORGIVABLE. INHUMANE. UNJUST. CRIME. Such crime should never be tolerated. And I REPEAT: NEVER. BE. TOLERATED, especially in our progressive and just nations.

2. Add flowery language

1. "lots of issues" → "a plethora of concerns, problems, and issues"
2. "there is no one simple solution" → "there is no one straightforward, simple route to the perfect solution, with such complex problem, solutions should be carefully considered for each specific scenario"
3. Linking Words/Phrases
 - Unfortunately
 - But furthermore
 - Make no mistake
 - But beyond that
 - We stand strong on the belief
 - However

3. Use synonyms, descriptive adjectives and adverbs

1. "harmful" → "detrimental"
2. "situation" → "an precarious situation"
3. "responded" → "effectively and efficiently responded"

4. Drink water / take a calculated breath of air

1. You should always say a phrase or two after to finish your speech (even a simple Thank You would suffice), don't just sit down

5. Specific ending phrases

1. "We would love to see more input from fellow delegates, especially from _____ region who could perhaps bring a new perspective on the issue being discussed"

6. Specific introductory phrases

1. "Firstly, we would like to thank the delegate of _____ for their insightful comments. We would like to build on top of that / However, we would like to bring light to a new perspective



Prepared speeches

Before any committee session, you should prepare some of your speeches, as well as general topics you would like to motion for (discuss).

- **Primary Speaker's List Speech**

- Emphasize why given topic is the more important and needs to be discussed first
- 1 for each topic

- **Secondary Speaker's List Speech**

- 3 - 4 prepared
- Anything from outlining the most concerning aspect of the problem, your nation's general stance, what your nation has done in the past regarding the problem, etc...

- **General topics**

- an outline of
 - possible topics or areas of discussion
 - for each topic
 - premises of possible speeches
 - quick notes of the problem, solution, significance

Improvised speeches

Sometimes even with pages and pages of prepared speeches, you may run out of substance to say. This often happens when the committee goes in an unexpected direction that you did not envision prior to the session. In those situations, you should still be able to adapt and contribute to the discussion. Following are some steps you can take if stuck in such situation:

- 1. Identify the focus of the discussion**
- 2. Recognize different topics that has been covered/uncovered**
- 3. Introduce uncovered topics or introduce new perspective on covered topics**

- If need to fill speaking time, it's ok to reiterate other delegates' points, but add more examples, analysis or present it in a more professional manner

How to lead during Unmoderated Caucuses

Unmoderated Caucuses are much more informal than moderate caucuses. Therefore, your arguments should be more informal and structured to convince everyday people. During unmod sessions, it is important to focus on how you present your ideas. In order to be successful during unmod sessions:



1. Maintain a respectable but friendly status

1. Other delegates should look at you as an intelligent, well-informed, competent delegate whose friendly, willing to share ideas, collaborate, respect other delegates, etc... (almost how a grade 9 looks at a friendly grade 12)

2. Be the one with the computer

1. Someone has to record all the raw, undeveloped ideas during unmod sessions
2. This makes it easier and more natural for you to be the owner or main author of draft resolutions
3. Further, invite people on a google doc (suggestion-only) where they can see and share ideas
4. Be the one to write the actual clauses (pre-ambulatory and operative) as dais look at editing history to determine amount of contribution

3. Be the moderator of the discussion

1. A leader leads all, not just a select few
2. Draft resolutions pass through a majority vote, it's important that you as an individual gain popularity and support. The easiest way to do that is allowing people to speak and showing that you are an open-minded person whose willing to listen and cooperate

4. Start the conversation, end the conversation

1. Open up areas of discussion, note the main points, close it with an impact when that area of discussion has been exhausted
2. Direct where the discussion goes

5. Have conviction in your statements

1. You know your country best, take pride in your research and knowledge
2. Having conviction attracts other delegates and you garner more support

