

First Affirmative Rebuttal Speech: In this difficult speech, the first affirmative speaker must give brief answers to each of the important arguments presented in the second negative constructive speech and in the first negative rebuttal speech. If any arguments go unanswered, the negative team will rightly claim that the argument has been won by the negative.

Second Negative Rebuttal Speech: The 2NR should focus the attention of the judge on the key reasons the affirmative plan should be rejected. In offering these reasons, the negative debater must depend on arguments that were extended from the attacks on the case made in constructive speeches.

Second Affirmative Rebuttal Speech: The 2AR should cover all the issues reviewed by the second negative rebuttalist, plus any important issues from the first affirmative rebuttal the negative team might have ignored. The final rebuttal provides an opportunity for the affirmative team to explain to the judge why the affirmative side of the resolution should win the debate.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FLOWSHEET

The *flowsheet* refers to the record debaters themselves keep of the arguments that have been made in a debate. In policy debate, there is something called *the burden of rejoinder*. This means an argument made by one team is assumed by the judge to be true unless and until the other team answers the argument. For example, say the affirmative team argues “Global warming is the most serious problem facing the planet.” If the negative team fails to answer this argument in its next speech, the judge will assume that the negative team accepts the truth of the argument. In the language of a debater, the negative team has *dropped* or *granted* the argument by failing to respond to it.

It is because of the burden of rejoinder that the flowsheet is so important in policy debate. Everyone in the debate round—all four debaters and the judge—keep careful track of the arguments in the order they have been made. The flowsheet becomes the debater’s notes for an upcoming speech.

If the debater is flowing on paper (as opposed to on a computer), each group of arguments is placed on a separate sheet. The affirmative case arguments (the ones from the first affirmative speech) go on one sheet. All negative arguments against the affirmative case go on that same sheet. Each subsequent speech in the debate requires a new column on the flowsheet.

Every major off-case argument made by the negative team is placed on a new sheet of paper. If the negative team challenges topicality, each topicality argument is placed on its own sheet of paper. If the negative team offers three disadvantages, each