

material has been made by the school or school board itself, rather than by the individual teacher of a class.

WRITING THE CASE

A good affirmative case begins with a brief attention-getting element. As in public speaking, any good introduction serves three purposes:

- It gains attention.
- It establishes rapport.
- It leads into the body of the speech.

The introduction might gain attention by using an apt quotation, telling a brief story, asking a rhetorical question, or offering an analogy. You can establish rapport with the judge by establishing an appropriate emotional tone and making direct eye contact. Finally, the introduction should lead smoothly into the statement of the resolution, which in this case begins the body of the affirmative speech.

The introduction should be kept short—certainly no longer than thirty seconds. The introduction does not constitute an argument that the judge writes down on her flowsheet, and the negative debater is not expected to respond to the introduction. Accordingly, you cannot afford to spend too much time on the opening.

The next element of the affirmative case is the statement of the resolution. Consider the way in which Taarini Vohra, the 2007 national champion in Lincoln-Douglas debate from The Hockaday School, introduced the resolution:

- “Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.” Because I agree with Abraham Lincoln, I must affirm today’s resolution: On balance, violent revolution is a just response to political oppression.

After the statement of the resolution, the case should provide a definition of the key terms in the resolution. Taarini Vohra provided her definitions with the following two observations:

I. Definitions of evaluative terms

- a. “On balance” is defined
- b. “A” is defined

II. Definitions of objects of evaluation

- a. “Oppression” means “the prolonged cruel exercise of authority”
- b. “Political” means “the agent of oppression is a government.”
- c. “Violent revolution” means “considerable or destroying force which is prohibited by law and directed to change the system of government.”