

actually be radicalizing the Arab street in the Middle East, resulting in the creation of future terrorists.

A final strategy is to accept both the affirmative value and the affirmative criterion but argue that the criterion is best achieved by opposing the resolution. Remember that the affirmative value is safety and the criterion is “uncovering information that will prevent future terrorist attacks.” The negative could argue that by its harsh detention of Middle Eastern immigrants, the federal government has lost the cooperation of immigrant communities. Middle

Eastern immigrants living in the United States offer the best hope of uncovering terrorist plots because they are in the best position to spot and report radical Islamists. They will not, however, cooperate with anti-terrorist efforts by providing information if they are given good reason to fear government mistreatment.

EXTENDING ARGUMENTS IN THE REBUTTAL

The length of the rebuttal in Lincoln-Douglas debate offers a key advantage to the negative. The negative has a six-minute rebuttal to respond to an affirmative rebuttal that was only four minutes in length. The negative should use this time trade-off to full advantage.

Carefully write down each argument made by the affirmative in the first rebuttal. As you are doing so, pay careful attention to the arguments the affirmative failed to answer. Not all judges in Lincoln-Douglas debate flow the speeches, so it is up to you to emphasize the importance of the places where you are given a free pass by the affirmative.

Your rebuttal should generally begin by extending your answers to the affirmative case. The decision of whether to follow a complete line-by-line rebuttal format will depend on careful judge analysis. Do you know (either from a judge philosophy sheet or from observing the judge) whether the judge prefers a line-by-line approach?

If the judge seems interested only in the big picture, you still will need to create the sense that you are well organized and are responding to the key arguments of the affirmative. If you have a judge who follows the line-by-line arguments on the flowsheet, you should take full advantage by answering fully each of the arguments. By doing so, you make it very difficult for the affirmative to respond because the final affirmative rebuttal is only half the length of your rebuttal speech.

Any good persuasive speaker likes to save the best for last—that would be your negative case. The final few minutes of your rebuttal speech should emphasize the key elements of your negative case, pointing out any items not responded to in the first affirmative rebuttal.