

flip. The first and second speakers persuasively present their pre-prepared four-minute speech (called their *case*), offering reasoned agreement or disagreement with the topic statement. On the topic “Colleges and universities should be permitted to pay stipends to their Division I athletes,” for example, the first pro speaker would present a pre-prepared four-minute persuasive speech detailing the reasons paying college athletes would be a good thing. The con speaker would present a pre-prepared four-minute persuasive speech outlining the problems with paying college athletes.

*First Crossfire:* This refers to a period of open interchange between one member of the pro team and one member of the con team. The second speaker stays at the lectern and is joined by the first speaker (the speaker of the opposing team who has already spoken). The speakers should both stand in the front of the room for this first crossfire. For the next three minutes, the two speakers interact with one another, using probing questions to explore the weaknesses in the opposing argument. Unlike other forms of debate, neither participant is assigned the role of questioner or respondent; both debaters can both ask and answer questions.

*The Third and Fourth Speakers:* The debaters use these speeches to attack the case arguments of their opponent and to answer any attacks made against their own case. The best speakers demonstrate a persuasive ability to answer arguments made in previous speeches and during the first crossfire.

*The Second Crossfire:* This interchange (with both speakers standing at the front of the room) occurs between the fourth speaker (who has just finished giving a speech) and the third speaker.

This second crossfire proceeds just like the first with the third and fourth speakers asking questions of one another, exploring weaknesses and strengths in the opposing cases. Debaters are encouraged to present dilemmas and explore contradictions in the opponent’s positions.

*The Summary Speeches:* The first and second speakers each give a two-minute speech designed to defend the most important parts of their own case and to highlight the key weaknesses in the opponent’s case. Given the time constraint, there is no expectation that the debaters will respond to every point made by the opponent.

Instead, the premium is placed on finding the most persuasive elements of one’s own case and the central problem with the opponent’s case.

*The Grand Crossfire:* All four debaters participate in this final interchange (three minutes in length). Everyone remains seated during the final crossfire but should take care that their location allows proper eye contact with the judge(s), audience, and camera (if the debate is being recorded). Customarily, the first question is directed at the team that just ended its summary (asked by the team giving the first summary