

- Average family income would decrease by \$30,000/year.
 - State tax revenue will decrease by 100 billion dollars per year.
 - The Department of Defense will be forced to reduce training exercises and military readiness.
3. Alternatives to the Protocol are available to address global warming.
- The Carbon Sequestration Leadership Forum promotes renewable energy.
 - The Energy Policy Act implemented in 2006 provides market-based tax incentives.
4. The scientific community doesn't support the Protocol.

Close the speech with a brief summary and something to create a sense of finality. Bishop Heelan closed his winning con speech with the following sentence: "We refuse to advise you as a judge to vote to ratify a Protocol that compromises the economic stability as well as the national security of the United States."

Before using your opening speeches in a real debate, try them out on your coach and anyone else who will listen and provide feedback. Each time you rehearse the speeches, carefully check the time. Make certain that each speech—both the pro and con speech—will fit comfortably within the four-minute time limit. You should speak at a conversational rate. Resist the temptation to speak more rapidly to make time for an additional piece of supporting evidence.

After you have fine-tuned your first speeches, you are ready to prepare argument response briefs. These response briefs will be used to respond to the arguments made by your opponent. Your goal should be to have a response brief for every argument that you can imagine your opponent might make.

How do you construct the list of possible opposing arguments? Begin by making sure that you could answer the arguments made in your own opening speeches. You will probably face opponents who will make the same arguments you plan to make. Continue your list of possible opposing arguments by examining the record of your brainstorming session. Many of the arguments you considered using in your own first speeches (but ultimately rejected) will probably be made by one of your opponents. When you return home from a tournament, carefully examine your flowsheets to identify any arguments you had not anticipated. Add any such arguments to your list of necessary response briefs.

A response brief in policy debate might be several pages long and include a dozen pieces of supporting evidence. Such briefs have limited usefulness in public forum debate because you would never have time to present more than one or two responses. I recommend that you prepare your response briefs on 4'×6' index cards. For each brief,