

The definition settled, each team has to present a case, arguments and examples. Each team presents a single case. The team's case is supported by several arguments. Each argument is backed up by one or more examples.

(a) Case

The team's case is sometimes called the team line or team theme. This is the essence of what the team is arguing. Every individual argument made must help prove the case, which in turn must prove the team's side of the motion.

During preparation, the team should always try to work out the key point it wants to make. Does this prove its side of the motion? Does each individual argument derive from this?

Often the team case can be written out as a 'because statement'. For example, 'affluent nations *should* accept more refugees' *because* there is dire human need, they can easily afford to help alleviate it, and they themselves benefit from doing so; 'we should *not* cancel third world debt' *because* the real problem is not the debt but the governments of these countries. (These are two sample cases argued at the 2001 World Schools Debating Championships in South Africa.)

All three team members should write down the team case once it has been agreed. By referring each of their arguments back to the team case and repeating it at different junctures, the team's three speeches are given a unity and consistency.

'Remember there are people in need; we've got the means to help them; and we ourselves benefit from more diverse communities' is the sort of ending to a speech that sounds good and, more importantly, reiterates and reinforces the team case in the 'affluent nations should accept more refugees' debate.

The Opposition team case against cancelling third world debt is less wordy. Team cases can always be simplified and given more punch. The Proposition team case in the refugees debate could be refined to read 'affluent nations *should* accept more refugees' *because* this benefits both the refugees and the affluent nations.

(b) Arguments

The team will need to ensure that it provides arguments in support of its case and that these arguments are divided among the three speakers, the most important arguments being made first.

An argument is a reason or rationale why the team's case is right. Inexperienced debaters sometimes state the team case, but then descend into a series of examples, without trying to show how they are linked or the underlying reasons why they prove the team's point.

A Proposition team speaker claiming affluent nations themselves benefit from accepting more refugees might say that this occurred when European countries took in some of the Kosovo Albanian refugees who were fleeing into Macedonia in 2000. But this would be to go from case to example, without the intervening stage of argument. What is needed is an explanation as to *why* this example shows affluent nations benefit from taking more refugees. What was the benefit they gained?