

fewer debaters would start their speeches apparently halfway through. It seems safe to assume that they would also show less of a tendency to stop talking just as things appear to be getting interesting.

INTRODUCTIONS

Although the introduction is the first element of your speech, it is not the first you should construct. Just as a travel guide needs to know where she is going, how she will get there, and what landmarks she will point out along the way before she tells her tourists, so too, in preparing a speech, think through the arguments that are actually needed to reach your conclusion and the evidence that you will present to support those arguments; then, go back and craft the introduction. Don't start your speech with the first idea that pops into your head and hope the adjudicator catches up.

The process of introducing a speech is similar to the guide taking out a map and explaining to her party where they will be going during the course of the day. In debate, this process, usually referred to as "roadmapping," allows the listener to relax and wait for you to take them where you've promised.

Roadmapping

Roadmapping encourages absolute clarity on the part of the debater; she identifies and names each of the arguments she plans to put forward. She also mentions how, and when, she intends to deal with the arguments that have been put forward by other speakers on her side and, especially, the arguments of the opposing team(s). By clarifying what she will say and what will be, or has been, addressed by other speakers, she allows the listener to focus on the speech without wondering whether or not she is going to address what the listener considers to be an important point.

To see how roadmapping would work in practice, let's assume that our imaginary speaker has three arguments to make. She sets out what they are and what type of evidence will support them in the first minute or so of the speech. This enables the adjudicator to jot down what to expect and allows everyone in the room to focus on what's coming next. For example, the opening moments of a Second Affirmative speech might be:

Madam Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, during my speech I will develop on the points made by my colleague the First Affirmative speaker and address some of the confusion that appears to exist on the other side of this debate. First, I shall address the way in which the opening speaker for the Negative has failed to grasp that this debate revolves, fundamentally, around preparation for work. After that, I shall develop the