

to rebut the points the speaker made. Read about the subject and pursue areas you feel are particularly important to an understanding of the issue and, if it helps, write a few short paragraphs to clarify your thoughts. It's not an essay, just a few ideas that you think are important to the issue as a whole, regardless of whether they were mentioned in the speech.

3. If possible (and it may well not be) track down a transcript of the speech. If it was made in a legislature, it will be transcribed in an official report; if it was made elsewhere, then a party website or press office may be able to provide one. If not, work in groups to transcribe the speech as a whole, with the first person writing down the first part, someone else the next chunk and so on so that you can piece together the complete speech.
 4. Work through the speech on your own, noting any questions or issues that you would like to ask the speaker and anywhere that you feel the speaker has missed an important point or has allowed the audience to assume that something is the case when it may not be.
 5. Discuss your questions in a group and note on your copy of the speech any questions that others have raised that you think are important for the speaker to address.
 6. Listen to the speech again. Has your view of the speech changed? Has your view of the speaker changed? Discuss in your group how listening actively to this or any speech can affect your view of a speaker.
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CHAPTER CHECKLIST

- Active listening is the skill of listening to what has actually been said rather than hearing what we think should have been said.
 - Debaters listen to each other's speeches actively—analyzing what was said and what wasn't said—and consider them more than we tend to in everyday conversation.
 - Speakers may be allowing their listeners to make assumptions or take positions without really considering them.
 - Certain phrases can be clues to a piece of sloppy argumentation or lack of evidence.
 - Your involvement in a debate does not start when you stand up to speak or end when you sit down.
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