

to work together closely to keep up with a fluctuating web of arguments around them if they are to win.

PREPARATION TIME

Each debate includes several minutes of preparation time. Usually 3–5 minutes per side, although the specific amount varies in different countries; in some countries, the Negative team also has more prep time than the Affirmative. This time is not scheduled for a specific place in the debate, it is taken at the discretion of each team, in whatever amounts the team desires.

The use of preparation time is a strategic element in Karl Popper debates. The more prepared a team is for the debate, the less preparation time it will require early in the debate round. The more preparation time the team can save for the second or last speech, the more time it can devote to synthesizing and summarizing its positions.

During preparation time, teammates must pass on their ideas and suggest strategies to one another. If team members cannot work together and communicate efficiently, the whole debate may fall apart. Arguments will not be made and refutations will go unanswered.

Cross-examination also can be a valuable preparation time. While one member of the team is engaged in cross-examination, the other team members can use this time to prepare the next speech. In this way, a team can maximize its prep time. Using cross-examination time for preparation also can help a team save its official preparation time for later in the round when it is most needed. . However, debaters should limit their discussions with each other to ensure that they are still aware of important aspects the cross examination going on in front of them.

REFUTATION

The interaction of ideas and arguments is the heart of debating; hearing half a dozen well-informed but disconnected speeches on a subject is very interesting and can be a stimulating way to pass an hour or two, but it's not a debate. In any format, simply dismissing an argument would be unacceptable; instead, a debater is expected to point to a flaw, either evidential or logical, in the argument. However, KP debaters are expected to then provide a counter example of a preferential alternative that supports their case. In KP, this process can be formalized in the following five steps, which debaters should always use in refutation:

1. *Reference*: identify exactly which of your opponent's arguments you are addressing.