

second half of the debate to focus on somewhat different themes from the first half, so this speaker should stress why the Opposition has won the argument thus far. He must be aware that another four speakers are yet to come and his is not a concluding speech. However, he does conclude this part of the debate, and, as with the Deputy Prime Minister, should use the closing minute or so to ensure that the adjudicators have a clear understanding of the arguments put forward by his team.

Both second speakers should not rely on the subsequent speakers on their respective sides to do much in the way of further development or defense of their arguments. This is of particular concern for the DLO because, while his arguments will be rebutted by the third Government speaker (Member of the Government), the next Opposition speaker owes him no particular favors in terms of undertaking major defensive work—an extra reason to make sure the arguments are neatly sewn up.

“BOTTOM HALF” OF THE DEBATE

- *Member for the Government (Closing Government)*. The critical role of the Member for the Government is to offer an extension to the Government’s case. This is usually a new area of argument that tallies with what the opening speakers said but addresses the issues raised from a new perspective. This speaker must not begin an entirely new debate. Doing so, nicknamed “knifing,” is usually penalized heavily. In exceptional circumstances, where Opening Government’s case has been disastrously bad, the adjudicators will usually accept that Member for the Government simply had no choice but to knife. That said, finding an extension that allows this speaker to save the Government’s case without disagreeing with the first two speakers will be rewarded heavily.
- *Member for the Opposition (Closing Opposition)*. The Member for the Opposition deals primarily with the arguments put forward by his opposite number. However, assuming the extension has been done properly and ties in well with the first half of the Government case, he should introduce new critiques of both parts of that case. There is no formal requirement for the Member for the Opposition to offer an extension as such, but it is unlikely that he could fulfill his role without addressing largely new material—even if simply by dint of the fact that he has to deal with the Member for the Government’s extension.
- *Government Whip (Closing Government)*. The Government Whip’s job is to summarize what the other Government speakers have said. She can introduce some new evidence if necessary, particularly in rebuttal to the previous speaker. However, it is too late for Government to introduce new areas for debate, so she should not introduce new arguments. Although this speaker is concluding the case for the whole of the