

Government, she should demonstrate why her team (Closing Government), in particular, was better.

- *Opposition Whip (Closing Opposition)*. This speaker can rebut the new information of the previous speaker but should otherwise avoid new information. He should not introduce new evidence or new areas for discussion. Essentially all of this speech is referencing other speakers and demonstrating why the Opposition should win. This speech is the last the adjudicators will hear before making their decision; thus, a speaker who can help the adjudicators impose sense on the arguments they have just heard is likely to be rewarded. As with the concluding Government speaker, the Opposition Whip should summarize the debate in a way that highlights the strengths of his side of the house in general and his team in particular.

Important Features

EXTENSIONS

Of all of the elements of the four-team debate that can seem odd or confusing, the issue of the extension offered by the Member for the Government is the one that tends to command the most attention and cause the most anxiety. It is very difficult to explain precisely what makes a good extension—although it tends to be obvious when you see one. Generally, it should be in accordance with the case so far but examine the issue from a new perspective. This might just be one new line of argumentation. So, if the Opening Government team has addressed the political, social, and economic implications of a particular approach, the Closing Government team might want to look at the consequences of the suggested change on foreign affairs and the relations of the nation in question with its allies and neighbors.

It cannot be stressed too strongly that an extension should not start an entirely new debate. In effect, the two Government teams function as a coalition, reaching the same conclusion but from slightly different starting points. Ultimately, they are still trying to prove the original motion, although the debate is now framed in terms of the definition. If the Member for the Government simply disagrees with the Opening Government or talks about a completely different subject, she is highly unlikely to do much to prove the motion is true. She is attempting not to prove something different to be true but the truth of the same motion for different reasons.