

- *Opposition Reply Speech.* Reply speakers don't introduce new arguments or evidence. Instead, they give the adjudicators what is called a "biased adjudication," which sums up what the team is trying to achieve. It offers an overview of the highs and lows of the debate, delivered in a manner that encourages the listener to take that team's perspective on events as they transpired.
- *Government Reply Speech.* The Opposition has the benefit of having two speeches back-to-back; the Government has the advantage of the last word. The Government reply speaker utilizes the same structure as the Opposition reply but uses her speech in general, and her conclusion in particular, to try to focus the minds of the adjudicators on the means of determining the outcome of the debate that most favors her side.

Important Features

REPLY SPEECHES

Reply speeches aim to give each team a brief opportunity to consolidate their ideas and review the debate in the most favorable light for their side. The goal of this speech is not to win an argument but to explain why the team has won the debate. To do so, a speaker presents a biased adjudication. She tries to give the impression that she is above the partisan bickering of the rest of the debate and is attempting to impose some objective framework on what has been said for those listening. In reality, of course, she is doing nothing of the sort and aims to ensure that the adjudicators find the worldview that underpins her side of the debate the most appealing and reasonable of the two offered. Reply speakers present an overall analysis of the debate and highlight the points of clash in the best light for their own side but do so without the cut and thrust of the "debate proper." Replies are an opportunity to step back and reflect out loud on how your own side has been right all along.

These methods of determining success or failure should be the same determinants of victory that were established by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition—frequently the same person as the reply speaker. However, debates are not always that neat. As a result, the speaker may need to clarify how the determinant the adjudicators should use to make their decision is the same as the metric her side set up nearly an hour previously.