

for the case as a whole, the concluding speaker will provide the color and furnishings to show it in its best light. The middle speaker puts in place the bricks and mortar of argumentation and the plumbing and wiring of evidence. In short, their job is to make sure it stands up and everything works.

To succeed, the middle speaker must present robust arguments and deliver strong rebuttal. She must think of substantive and rebuttal arguments as being two sides of the same coin. The adjudicator is being asked to judge between two perspectives of how the world works; each side is trying to demonstrate that their perspective is more in line with reality. To that end, all arguments—substantive and rebuttal—function as examples of either perspective. By the time the middle speakers sit down, the adjudicator should have a clear sense of what the Affirmative is proposing and why their grasp of the world's workings means that their solution is likely to succeed. Conversely, the Negative should have supplied enough rebuttal to convince the adjudicator that the Affirmative perspective has flaws and thus Affirmative's solution to the problem is unlikely to work.

Since the second speaker's role is about providing a sense of reality, let's take a look at how it works in practice in our four formats.

MIDDLE SPEAKERS IN THREE-SPEAKER FORMATS (WORLD SCHOOLS AND ASIANS)

Role of Second Affirmative

In World Schools and Asians, you can organize a Second Affirmative speech in many ways, but the following will work as a basic structure:

1. Quickly (in your first minute) recap what the opening Affirmative speaker has said and remind the adjudicator of the material you will cover in your speech.
2. Tackle the main points the First Negative speaker has made. Ideally, you should complete this part of your speech in 60–70 seconds. If this section runs to a minute and a half, that's fine, but only if you're segueing neatly into your first argument.
3. Set out your first argument, being careful to tie the components of the argument together logically. At this point, you should begin to demonstrate how this argument and that put forward by the opening speaker tie together and, as a result, start creating a mental image for the adjudicator of how the case would work in practice.