

On the surface, the division of labor between the first and second speakers might lead you to believe that they have unrelated tasks that could be completed independently of each other. They can't. Karl Popper is designed specifically to encourage teamwork in a debate. The second speaker must develop the arguments presented by the first speaker, rebut her opponent's points, and utilize material gleaned from the third speaker's cross-examination of the first speaker to demonstrate that her case is superior to that of the other side.

ROLE OF MIDDLE SPEAKERS IN FOUR-SPEAKER FORMATS

British Parliamentary's unusual format, with two teams on each side, presents some very real logistical problems for the middle speakers on either side. The heart of these difficulties is this: both teams on each side are trying to beat the opposing side as a whole and the other team on their own side. The main tool for allowing this to happen is the "extension," a device by which the second teams in the debate can focus on new, although complimentary, material without having to disavow what has already been said by the first two speakers on either side.

Role of Second Speakers

The role of a second speaker in BP is not especially different from that of her counterpart in Asians and World Schools. She must make powerful arguments and offer a strong rebuttal. However, in BP, the second speaker must also be aware that the following speakers on her side have no particular inclination to do her and her teammate any favors. If second speakers in other formats would be well-advised to leave their cases neat and tidy by the end of their speeches, it is vital in BP. The third and fourth speakers, who form a separate team, may say a few nice things about the first team for the sake of professional courtesy but that's about all.

Consequently, as well as providing argumentation, a second speaker needs to build a mini-conclusion into her speech. She must ensure that the last part of her speech gives a summation of the debate so far and impresses in the mind of the adjudicator what her team's case was and the reasons it should be considered strong enough to place first.

Role of Third Speakers

The role of the Third Affirmative speaker (Member of the Government) is to introduce a major new platform into the debate. Similarly, the role of her opposite number is to respond to that new element. This process is referred to as an "extension"; Affirmative