

an argument about which team was more successful. Generally, summation speakers will follow one of the following structures:

Summation by Speaker

- rebut the immediately preceding speaker
- use that rebuttal to lead into the weaker points of the opposing team's case
- highlight those points made by colleagues that counter the arguments put forward by the opposing team
- demonstrate how the opposing side's weaker arguments, the counteractions of her side, and the substantive arguments from her own side have dominated the debate

Summation by Theme

- rebut the immediately preceding speaker
- briefly sum up the key developments on her side
- provide an overview of the key points of clash in the debate as a whole
- synthesize the key themes that have dominated the debate, contrasting the perspectives used, to show the benefit of her side's analysis

Let's have a look at these two approaches in more detail.

SUMMATION BY SPEAKER

Summing up by speaker is the simplest form of summation but is not necessarily less effective. It has the twin advantages of clarity and simplicity for the listener. The speaker is simply recapping what other speakers have said, albeit edited to fit a particular narrative. This is likely to lead an audience to think: "Yes, they did say that, didn't they?" in a way that imposing an analysis on the debate may not. This approach is clear because it relates to recent events; it is simple because your assessment of what the debate was about does not require the audience to take a further leap in logic.

The key to effectively summing up a debate by speaker is to take a step beyond "he said . . . then she said . . . then she said . . ." As with any type of summation, if she is to win then the debater needs to put herself in the shoes of the listener and ask what she needs them to remember. This is not an exercise in giving a faithful historical account of what has just happened. It's more of a sales pitch—and the tone, internal timing, and content should reflect that fact. Usually, the bulk of the concluding speaker's remarks will relate