

between the state and the individual. Quite possibly, however, if the debate has been confused, the listener is simply drowning in a mass of data and apparently unrelated evidence and argument. An effective final speaker can do the adjudicator a favor—and win the debate for her team—by imposing order on that mass of information. A good conclusion can draw together the disparate elements of the debate into a neatly wrapped package and present it to the adjudicator with a note explaining why her team should win.

In a debate that has been focused throughout, the speaker more commonly identifies the points of clash, highlights each of those as the flow of the debate has developed, and traces the argument through the debate, explaining how her side has convincingly proved each of those points of contention. In doing so, the speaker makes sure to reference others in the debate. Although she is taking a thematic approach, she still uses secondary evidence to prove her contention that her side has offered the better arguments. In this approach, the debater is neither editor nor reporter. Instead, she is an historian, selecting evidence as appropriate to highlight particular aspects of her narrative while appearing to give an explanation that fits all of the facts and justifies her analysis.

Summation by theme offers the speaker the opportunity to point out to the adjudicator issues that he may have missed, to demonstrate that the individual arguments of her teammates—the evidence they have used, the warrants outlined, and the claims made—all lead to one simple but overwhelming conclusion. Remember, assertion has no more place in a concluding speech than it has anywhere else in the debating chamber. Victory cannot just be claimed; it needs to be won by the speaker's comments as evidence, the logic of the arguments as warrants, and the superiority of their case as the claim.

Reply Speeches

In formats that have reply speeches, the debate *per se* has ended by the time the reply speaker gets up to speak. Her role, then, is to consolidate her team's ideas and review the debate. Generally, reply speeches will have the following structure:

- identify the central question of the debate and phrase it in a way that most benefits your team
- review how your team has successfully answered this question and note how the other team failed to do so
- offer an analysis of the two that draws out the strengths of your side of the debate