

How might the opposition attack them? How can you shore them up against those attacks and what can each speaker add to make his teammates' arguments stronger? Essentially, this is the stage at which you take your ideas and structure them along the lines discussed in Chapter 2.

Very roughly, one-third of preparation time should be given to each of these steps, but try out variations and see what works for your team. Regardless of how you organize your time, you're likely to want to move from the more general to the more specific. Put more simply still:

Topic → Case → Speech

TEAMWORK

Debating is a team activity, and all speakers should have a role in shaping their case and testing it to ensure that it is comprehensible to the adjudicator. Nevertheless, preparation varies from speaker to speaker. Basically, the amount of notes you can expect to have by the time prep ends is in inverse proportion to your place in the speaking order. First Affirmative must know exactly what she'll say. First Negative will also have a fairly clear idea of his main points but must wait to hear the definition before he can draw them together. He also should be prepared to use his general notes to create a response to an unexpected definition. Second Affirmative will have an idea of the arguments allotted to her by the case division, but the remaining debaters must respond to what is said during the debate. Teams that are speaking second in British Parliamentary should not work with the other team on their side. Remember, you are not only competing against the other side but also the other team on your side.

Principles of Short and Long Preparation

As you grow as a debater, you and your teammates are likely to develop your own approach to preparation. You're quite likely to use different approaches to long and short prep, which is fine. However, whatever your approach and regardless of the length of preparation time, you should:

- *Remember the "Goldilocks Principle."* This is a variant on the fairytale's too hot/too cold/just right analysis applied to evidence. Consider your available evidence and determine what you can use in this particular debate—does the evidence relate to the right issue, the right time frame, the right country?