

in the Human Trafficking debate found in the Appendix. For instance, when questioning the First Affirmative, the Third Negative asks, “Are you assuming that countries are not able to deal with their own criminals?” This question is very important, especially when the Negative’s main position is that individual countries, rather than the International Criminal Court, should address the problem of human trafficking.

### **PREPARATION TIME**

In addition to the sections outlined above, each debate includes up to 16 minutes of preparation time—8 minutes for each team. This time is not scheduled in any particular place in the sequence of sections; it is taken at the discretion of each team, in whatever amounts the team desires. The negative team, for example, might use 2 minutes before the first negative cross-examination, another 2 before its constructive, another 2 before its first rebuttal, and so on.

The use of preparation time can be a strategic element in Karl Popper debates. The more prepared a team, the less preparation time it will require early in the debate round. The more preparation time the team can save for the second or last speech, the more time it can devote to synthesizing and summarizing its positions. Thus, to have the greatest amount of preparation time available for the later parts of the debate, team members must prepare and communicate.

Preparation time is vital during the debate. As soon as a section ends, the team members must huddle and, literally, compare notes. In a minute or two, one member of the team will have to stand and begin the next section of the debate. During preparation time, teammates must pass on their ideas and suggest strategies to one another. If team members cannot work together efficiently during preparation time, the whole debate may fall apart. Arguments will not be made and refutations will go unanswered. The groundwork for collaborative teamwork must be laid during the working sessions and practices that precede the speeches.

Cross-examination time also can be a valuable moment to prepare. While one member of the team is engaged in a particular cross-examination, the other team members can use this time to prepare. In this way, a team can maximize its preparation time. Using cross-examination time for preparation also can help a team save its official preparation time for later in the round when it is most needed.

A quick analysis of the structure of a Karl Popper debate reveals that each debater spends more time listening than talking. Listening, we will add immediately, does not mean waiting to talk. The success of the team effort really depends on how well its members listen. Taking careful notes is a tool of good listening. When debaters make notes, their listening becomes active, not passive; they do a better job of grasping what is said. Moreover, the debater who is taking careful notes on the debate can start to sketch responses as opponents speak.