

SPEAKER ROLES

1. Introduction

This guide covers the different speaker roles and the basics of structuring a speech. It should be read in conjunction with the *SADA Guide to Adjudicating* and the *Australia-Asia Debating Guide*.

2. First affirmative

A first affirmative speaker must set up the case for their team and present substantive material. A first affirmative will generally be structured as follows.

- a) A short, targeted introduction explaining the key ideas behind the affirmative case. This introduction should also provide some context to the debate, answering the question ‘why are we having this debate?’
- b) Case set up. This includes, as appropriate:
 - (i) a definition of the topic;
 - (ii) a model or test; and
 - (iii) signposting the substantive arguments that will be presented by the first and second speaker (the third speaker should not be mentioned).
- c) Substantive material. A first speaker should have two or three arguments, clearly delineated and signposted. The first speaker should take the team’s most important arguments.
- d) A conclusion which in two to three sentences summarises the key messages the speaker wants the audience to take away from their speech.

Approximately one third of the speech should be spent on the introduction and case set up.

3. First negative

The first negative must respond to the affirmative case, set up the negative case and present substantive material. A first negative would normally be structured as follows.

- a) A short introduction encapsulating the negative case.
- b) Rebuttal (including a definition challenge if required).
- c) Case set up (same as first affirmative, but without a definition).
- d) Substantive material.
- e) Conclusion.

A first negative should spend around a quarter of their speech on rebuttal. Generally the negative will not be required to do as much case set up as the affirmative, so two thirds of the speech should still be devoted to substantive material.

4. Second speakers

Second speakers must advance their response to the opposing case through rebuttal and present substantive material. A second speaker's speech would normally be structured as follows.

- a) A short introduction encapsulating the state of the debate.
- b) Rebuttal.
 - (i) The second affirmative, being the first affirmative speaker rebut, should deal with any issues relating to the negative team's definition, model or test.
 - (ii) The rebuttal provided by a second negative should not repeat the first negative's rebuttal; it should react to developments in the debate and address the entire affirmative case.
- c) Substantive case. A second speaker should have two to three arguments. These should be signposted at the beginning of the substantive section of a speech and be clearly delineated.
- d) Conclusion. This should be short, drawing the audience's attention to the key messages of the speech.

5. Third speakers

Third speakers must devote their speech to rebuttal. A third speaker's speech should begin with a short introduction summarising the contest between the teams. They should then rebut the whole of the opposing case. Rebuttal should be thematic and signposted. Rebuttal is discussed in more detail in the *Guide to Rebuttal*. Third speakers may summarise the debate and their team's case at the end of their speech, but this should only be around 30 seconds.

Third speakers must not introduce new substantive material into the debate. They may however introduce new examples or analysis in the course of rebuttal.