

PUBLIC FORUM CASE OUTLINE

1. Opening attention-grabber. Use a compelling fact, an interesting quote, or a powerful mini-story (anecdote) to set the tone of the debate.
2. Good morning/afternoon/evening. Because my partner and I agree with (or feel that ... or ...), we stand in firm affirmation (negation) of the resolution which states:

RESOLVED: Debaters are not adequately prepared for tournament competition

Definitions – offer definitions for words and concepts that will be important to the resolution. Adequately, prepared and tournament are examples.

2. **Our first contention is:** Debaters are not adequately prepared for tournament competition because they do not spend enough time conducting research.
3.
 - ANALYZE the logic behind your 1st contention. WHY do you think this contention supports the affirmative or negative?
 - Cite fact, statistic, or quote with the SOURCE (NOT a URL address – [www.ANYTHING!](#)). You may start the sentence with the source (According to Dr. Barbara Lowe, a criminologist at The Society for the Prosecution of Lazy Students, 4,528 students slacked off in debate this year.) OR ... you could end the sentence with the source (4,528 students slacked off in debate this year, according to Dr. Barbara Lowe, a criminologist at The Society for the Prosecution of Lazy Students.)
 - ANALYSIS – explain WHY that fact, statistic, or quotation supports your contention!
4. **Our second contention is:**
 - ANALYZE the logic behind your 1st contention. WHY do you think this contention supports the affirmative or negative?

- Cite fact, statistic, or quote with the SOURCE (NOT a URL address – [www.ANYTHING!](#)). You may start the sentence with the source (In an interview in the Rostrum, the National Forensics League monthly magazine, Taylor Smith, the NFL champion in Public Forum debate, stated that only 43% of debaters at nationals were actually prepared to compete ... OR ... you could end the sentence with the source ... Only 43% of debaters at nationals were actually prepared to compete, said Taylor Smith, the NFL champion in Public Forum debate in an Interview with Rostrum, the National Forensics League monthly magazine.
- ANALYSIS – explain WHY that fact or statistic or quotation supports your contention!

5. **Our third contention is:**

- ANALYZE the logic behind your 1st contention. WHY do you think this contention supports the affirmative or negative?
- Cite fact, statistic, or quote with the SOURCE (NOT a URL address – [www.ANYTHING!](#)). You may start the sentence with the source (In an interview in the Rostrum, the National Forensics League monthly magazine, Taylor Smith, the NFL champion in Public Forum debate, stated that only 43% of debaters at nationals were actually prepared to compete ... OR ... you could end the sentence with the source ... Only 43% of debaters at nationals were actually prepared to compete, said Taylor Smith, the NFL champion in Public Forum debate in an Interview with Rostrum, the National Forensics League monthly magazine.
- ANALYSIS – explain WHY that fact or statistic or quotation supports your contention!

6. **SUMMARIZE your argument.** BRIEFLY repeat your main points in the order you presented them. “We stand firmly resolved that ... (repeat resolution because ____, ____, and ____).

7. So that you don't have your source citation as your last words,
INTRODUCE your closing remarks with the name of the source and then
CLOSE WITH A POWERFUL, convincing anecdote, fact, or quote.