

2. Impact calculus and comparison, ev comparison – how to win in the rebuttals

Really happy to be here

Thanks to Flynn and Chicago UDL for setting this up

Thank you all for taking time to be here and for building debate programs at your school

Me - UC Berk, debater then coach, work in tech, permanent debate enthusiast

Impact calculus and comparison, ev comparison, how to win in rebuttals

My goal is to talk about the importance of the final rebuttal and how the Aff and Neg are trying to do something slightly different in it.

After that, I divided into sections of rebuttal preparation, setup,

Final rebuttals are the debaters last case to the judge.

Arguments that aren't mentioned in the final rebuttals can't be counted

For the Neg: they're coming off of a 13-5 block of time. They need to narrow down to a few key points - usually 1 key vector of offense and defense to Aff harms (case takeouts, CP, Framework argument on the K)

Goal is to anticipate every possible out and close every window.

For the Aff: fundamental goal is to find one way out and really sell it

2NRs are hedging because the 2AR hasn't laid down their cards down

2AR happens after the Neg has put everything on the table

Aff needs to identify one winning combo and really pitch it well instead of a scattershot approach

1) Choices before the debate shape the rebuttal

Can very rarely fully map a rebuttal...but can get broad vision right

Prep Allocation:

What arguments are you most concerned about?

What arguments are can you dismiss pretty quickly?

Intel:

Does the Neg go for one position a lot?

Do they read something but never or rarely go for it?

---maybe somebody only goes for politics, or the cap k, or has 4 different T arguments in the 1nc

2) Choices early in the debate shape the rebuttal

Same as prep allocation

Partner communication

Trick: is there one DA that is a net benefit to lots of things?

Is a team so deficient on one argument that they must go for another?

3) Top of rebuttal impact comparison

TF Prob Mag

Why does one matter?

Unique element of your scenario?

Directness?

Comparison

Assume worst case

Drill: grant a massive blunder like full DA and set victory condition

4) Argument selection:

Neg—which arguments do I extend from the block?

Which points do I really flesh out?

Aff—what is the best impact?

-neg answers

-cp solvency OR da/K turn it?

Key is to be realistic

—“even if” by a place they are winning, you look MORE not less credible if you see spots that you are behind

5) Common Mistakes

Storytelling/rant at the top, cut to “we win because”

Go for every argument

6) Practice

Record your redo. Then transcribe it. T

7) Ev comparison

Difference AND reason that matters
Make sure that your indict also applies