

Public Forum Speaker Duties

The first and second speakers should prepare in advance the reasons for adoption (or rejection) of the topic. Arguments should be carefully worded to be accurate and persuasive. The first crossfire should be used to clarify arguments and define where clash exists. Probing questions to expose weakness are useful. Both debaters should stand during two person Crossfire.

The third and fourth speakers have two duties:

To attack (refute) the case (arguments) of their opponents; and to answer attacks made upon their own arguments by their opponents. The speeches should reflect analysis and refutation with an emphasis on clash and adaptation to the issues raised in the previous speeches and crossfire. The second crossfire should advance the debate by finding areas of agreement and attacking arguments with which the debater does not agree. Previously prepared dilemmas may be posed. Contradictions should be exposed.

Both debaters should stand during two person Crossfire.

The summary speakers should consolidate their positions by defending the most important point in their own case and attack the most important point in the opponents case. Select only the most important issue or issues and cover them thoroughly, but *do not rush*.

Grand Crossfire:

The purposes of grand crossfire are to find areas of agreement, highlight clash, and expose areas of opponent weakness to bring the debate to its final focus.

All debaters should be seated during Grand Crossfire, but should be able to see the judge(s), audience, and camera. The Crossfire TV Show on CNN is a good model.

The first question is asked to the team who just ended their summary by the team which had the first summary.

After the first Q and A any debater may question and answer at will.

Final Focus:

The purpose of the Final Focus is to restate the reason(s) why your team has won the debate. Judges will be instructed that new arguments in the final focus are to be ignored.

Tip: Delivery should be conversational and extempore in style but absent flaws like vocal pauses, fast delivery, poor articulation, and lack of vocal variety.