

CROSS EXAMINATION

Definition

- Cross examination, aka CX or cross ex is a question and answer period that follows every constructive speech where the speaker answers questions about their speech.

NB: Debaters who put considerable thought into their cross examination strategies will be much more successful much better than those debaters who don't plan ahead for the questions they want to ask.

Cross examination takes 12 minutes.

Who cross examines who?

Who cross examined!	TIME	Who is cross examined?
3 rd NEGATOR	3 MINUTES	1 ST AFFIRMATIVE SPEAKER
3 RD AFFIRMATIVE	“	1 ST NEGATIVE SPEAKER
1 ST NEGATOR	“	2 ND AFFIRMATIVE
1 ST AFFIRMATIVE SPEAKER	“	2 ND NEGATOR

CROSS EXAMINATION STYLE

- ❑ First stand up and face the judge; it enables you to look credible.
- ❑ Be forceful and clear such that the judge can listen to every question and answer.
- ❑ Maintain eye contact with the judge since they are your target audience.
- ❑ Do not be rude or evasive or dodgy in your cross examinations.

NB: Judges will be evaluating your personality as much as the content of your questions and answers.

USING CROSS EXAMINATION FOR CLARIFICATION

- Both the affirmative and negative teams can use CX for clarification.
- So , formulate questions that bring out the clarity you need especially if your partner is relying on that CX information to build the case.
- If you want to ask for evidence, ask for it at first if your team mate needs it.

NB: Clarifying questions are important are important because they allow you to be sure what your opponent is arguing.

CROSS EXAMINATION STRATEGIES

- I. DO NOT EXPECT YOUR OPPONENT TO CONCEDE. Do not expect concessions during CX. Use CX to lead the other team to the cliff and then push them over during your subsequent speech.
- II. DO NOT DWELL ON THE SAME POINT FOR THE ENTIRE CROSS EXAMINATION PERIOD. Ask your question once or twice and if you are not getting satisfaction from the answers you hear, go ahead and move on lest the judge will be frustrated by you.

III. ANSWER QUESTIONS FULLY. This should be done mindful of time. Make the CX an extension of your earlier speech, with additional explanation if possible. If you try to be evasive or run on, your judge may draw a negative conclusion.

IV. WEDGING: Probably the opponent is reluctant to speak everything, so you develop questions that stretch into other questions well stating that you already know the truth.

PREPARING FOR CX

- ❑ GENERAL KNOWLEDGE ANALYSIS. You cant cross examine in a vacuum. You should be conversant with the area of information of your opponent then can you realise the structural flaws in argumentation that you can exploit .
- ❑ SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE ANALYSIS. This enables you to detect the fallacies in the affirmative case.
- ❑ HAVE A TRIAL PAGE FOR EVERY DEBATER. Create separate pages within your notebook or leaflets where you can note down every question as it comes up?

- ❑ **HAVE A TRIAL OR QUESTION PLAN.** Before the debate begins, you can note down any particular questions that you can utilise in cross examination to build your case.
- ❑ **PANNING FOR GOLD.** In gold search, the prospector used a pan to lift material from the bed of a stream, swirling the pan causing gold nuggets to sink to the bottom and would then throw away useless stuff remaining.

The same applies to CX; pick the case but only focus on the heart of the case such that you don't concentrate on non issues that cant win you the case.

- ❑ **PINN DOWN YOUR OPPONENT.** After extracting the gold nuggets you want, have a way of stating that the opponent stated a favorable thing in case he or she testifies differently on the stand.
- ❑ **GET THE OPPONENT SPEAKING OFTEN.** Here, they have a tendency of citing terrible contradictions. This should be applied very selectively.
- ❑ **DON'T QUESTION WITHOUT PURPOSE.** You can only use this if you are in a very extreme situation where you guess something may come up or are trying to consume time.
- ❑ Don't permit repetition of testimony.
- ❑ Don't argue with the opponent.
- ❑ Sustain the momentum.

CONTROLLING YOUR OPPONENT

- Use short plain, unambiguous questions so as to give the opponent no excuse for evasion.
- Ask only one fact per question.
- Use leading questions which legitimately call for a “yes” or “no”.
- Ask nothing which provides an excuse to explain.
- Camouflage the objective of the question such that the opponent does not think about absconding from answering.
- Ask questions a gradient of fleshiness. Start with the soft questions and gradually pick the rough ones.

TWO WAYS OF CROSS EXAMINATION

1. **AN INTEGRATION OF FRIENDLY APPROACH AND ADVERSARY APPROACH:** A combination where you can elicit what you can elicit what you can with a friendly manner and then suddenly shift to a firmer manner to disconcert the opponent.
2. **FUMBLING APPROACH:** here, one pretends not to know. This leads the opponent to believe that you don't know the critical information and therefore to decide that he or she, can get away with false statements.

How to effectively end a cross examination?

- Above all, strive to end on a high note.
- End with the strongest questions such that that impact can be sustained at the judges bench.
- To be sure you do this, select the ending point prior to cross examination.

TYPES OF QUESTIONS

Certainly! Here's an expansion on the three cross-examination question types with one-sentence examples for each:

1. Open-Ended Questions

Open-ended questions encourage detailed responses and deeper exploration of the subject.

- **Example:**

- "Can you explain how your proposed policy will address the economic disparity in rural areas?"

- ****Expansion:**** This question invites the respondent to provide a comprehensive explanation, detailing the mechanisms and anticipated outcomes of their policy.

Cont.....

2. Closed-Ended Questions

Closed-ended questions typically yield a yes/no or short, specific answer, useful for clarifying facts or pinpointing details.

- **Example:**

- "Did your research include data from the last five years?"

- Expansion: This question seeks a straightforward confirmation or denial, helping to establish the scope and relevance of the research.



Cont....

3. Scenario-Based Questions

Scenario-based questions present a hypothetical situation to test the respondent's argument or predict their policy's real-world application.

- **Example:**

- "If your policy were implemented and unemployment rates increased, how would you adjust your strategy?"

- **Expansion:** This question probes the respondent's contingency planning and adaptability, evaluating their foresight and problem-solving capabilities in hypothetical adverse conditions.

GOOD LUCK!