

Nordic Debate Academy 2018

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Extensions & Closing Half Strategy



Closing strategy

- What is the worst thing you can do as a closing team?
- Who extends?
- How does your preparation time change depending on if you are closing or opening?



Closing strategy

I MUST bring NEW information

- The information must be MEANINGFULLY better than what has come before
- I must EXPLAIN why my material is better than what has come before



Basic closing strategy: prep

- Never rush into arguments in prep - give yourself plenty of time to brainstorm
- Identify all the burdens of the proof that exist in the debate
 - Many BoPs - how likely is it that opening will prove all of them
 - Few or one main BoP - what are all the links needed to make this argument stand?
- Goal != having a case ready going into the debate, but having a shared strategic understanding that allows you to make effective decisions and efficiently communicate during the debate
- Don't expect prepped material to *necessarily* survive opening – be prepared to change what your extension is by deputy if necessary
- What are the best arguments possible on the other side? How can you answer them?



Basic closing strategy: during the de

- People tend to overwrite and over discuss at the expense of under listening and underestimating
- Be realistic: did they run it? Did they really “not do it that well”? Never underestimate your opening, better to inflate them
- Assess challenges and risks within the debate: opening, diagonal, closing half – **who are you most threatened by?**
 - As a team, you need to “judge within a debate” to make the best possible strategic decisions in closing
 - You will need to have a good understanding of what clashes EXIST in the debate AND who is WINNING each clash



Speaker roles

- You extend as a team.
- Only really important speaker role difference is that the member must bring the bulk of the extension (bottom lines, main logical links)
- Whip speaker should also listen to their partner in detail: your duty is to do the strategically most effective thing given your partner's speech
- CG – only you can respond to CO, so dedicate significant time if threat



Member Speaker

Questions you should answer:

- Where have you chosen to extend?
- Why is it important to extend here?

Things you should do:

- Rebut and engage with material presented
- Provide at the **very least** the main logical links and bottom line of your extension



Whip

Questions you should answer:

- Why you have won the debate!
- Why your material in COMPARISON to what has already been said is the most important

Things you should do:

- Engage and rebut (doesn't count as new material)
- Weigh up your extension material and compare to the other material in the room



Intro - What is a “Clash”

- A clash is NOT an argument
- A clash is a main point of contention in the debate - i.e. there needs to be a disagreement on the two sides
- Example THW implement a parental license:
 - Children should be protected from abuse - NOT a clash
 - Is having a child an inalienable right? - CLASH



Extensions - Opening a new clash

- Pros: the easiest way to clearly appear new/fresh to the judge
- Cons: can be very hard with a strong opening team; a new clash != winning clash
- Strategy: prep wide and broad, have various ideas for directions to go
- Likely to use: your side is winning all the clashes
- Burdens:
 - Proving your material
 - Proving and weighing your clash vs. the clash\es already in the room



Extensions - Extending an Existing Clash

- Pros: doesn't require you to justify the clash; necessary in shallow or very focused debates
- Cons: the hardest type of extension to prove freshness; hard with strong opening team
- Strategy: prep central clashes in depth, focus on strategic meta – why is your analysis not just nice or more in depth, but **necessary**? Be as charitable as possible to opening!!
- Likely to Use: Your side is losing one or more clashes
- Burdens:
 - Why is this clash not settled for your side?
 - How does your material settle this clash?
 - If other clashes exist - why is this the most important clash?



THS the development and use of autonomous deadly weapons

OG	OO
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Minimising human errorSaving our own soldiers livesSaving civilian livesShortening conflicts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Machine errorLengthening conflictsEmbarking on more wars