

# Lesson 2.0: Case Warrant Impact

If you remember from last lesson, the first speech in a debate round is the constructive speech, also known as the “case”. This speech is done by the first speaker and is 4 minutes long.

The constructive is crucial in the scheme of the debate round because it sets the stage for what is being argued in the debate round. You’re going to be reading your arguments for or against the topic in this speech — these arguments are called “contentions”. On average, most cases have 1-3 contentions. While you can make more arguments, it is strategic to have 1-3 so you have time to fully develop each point.

## Length:

A case can vary in length but ideally you want to keep it at 600-800 words. Because you only have 4 minutes, you want to keep your arguments **succinct**, while developing them enough.

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The claim-warrant-impact, or CWI structure, is one of the ways that your argument can be structured. The CWI structure is the basic core of every argument structure, which is why it’s essential to grasp. As the name suggests, this structure has 3 components: the claim, the warrant, and the impact.

**The claim** is the argument that you are making: it is what you are trying to prove is true in the rest of your contention.

Let's pretend the topic is [Resolved: Social Media Should be banned](#).

An example of a claim could be: [social media should be banned because social media leads to cyberbullying](#).

Your claim shouldn’t be just “social media should be banned.” Instead, it should be a reason why it should be banned. In

this case, the reason is cyberbullying — and that’s your claim.

**The warrant** is the reasoning for why your claim is true. Warrants consist of evidence or logic that prove the claim. Examples of warrants can include articles, studies, statistics, etc.

When you approach warrants, think of the “why” part. Why is your claim true? Why are the statistics that support your claim true?

Now, let’s prove why our initial claim is true. [Social media leads to cyberbullying because bullies are able to keep their identities hidden on social media. Because their identities are kept private, they won’t be held accountable for torment, making it easier for bullies to continue bullying.](#)

**The impact** is the final part of your argument. At this point, you’ve already established that your argument is true, so you need to provide reasoning as to why the judge should care about it. Make sure your impact is quantified with numbers and statistics so the judge will have something clear and substantive to vote on.

Let’s write the impact for our claim and warrant. When we approach this, we want to come up with reasons for why cyberbullying is bad. For example, [the impact could be mental health — cyberbullying leads to mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety, which increase the rate for suicide by 30 percent killing 1 million kids annually.](#)