

Lesson 2 : Casing

Global Public Forum

What is Case?

- The first speech in a debate round is the constructive speech (case)
- You'll be reading your arguments in this speech called "contentions".
- Usually cases have around 1-3 contentions, any more than that might make your arguments lack detail since you only have 4 minutes)
- Your cases should be around 600-800 words



Lay vs Tech Judges

Lay Judges → Unfamiliar with the rules and metrics of debate (usually parents)

- Read **stock arguments**, or arguments that are common, and follow a train of logic and are easy to understand
- Tell a story → make your narrative believable
- Read slower with a case around 650 words
 - Emphasize statistics to have intonation in your voice

Tech Judges → may have done competitive debate in high school, have experience with the activity

- You can run less common arguments (squirrely ones)
- Are able to speak a little bit faster, but still **speak clearly**

Casing Structure (Claim-Warrant-Impact) → Beginner

With the CWI structure, there are three parts to your argument.

1. **The claim** → The argument you are making or what you are trying to prove true in your case
2. **Warrant** → The reasoning behind why your argument is true (it's not just enough to have evidence!)
3. **Impact** → The result of your argument and why the judge should care about it

Casing Structure (Claim-Warrant-Impact) → Example

Topic : The pros and Cons of social media. You are side con, and you are trying to make an argument as to why social media is bad.

If you were to make an argument saying social media is bad because it leads to bullying, here is what you're argumentation outline would look like following the CWI format

Claim → Social Media leads to Bullying

Warrant → Social media leads to bullying because bullies are able to hide their profiles and get away with saying discriminatory and harmful things. Their identities are kept private, and are not held accountable for the consequences of their actions, which makes it easier for them to bully and more likely to do so

Impact → Cyberbullying leads to mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety. Bullying causes the suicide rate to increase by **30 percent**

Casing structure (Advantage) → Advanced

With the Advantage structure, there are three parts to your argument (excluding the claim)

1. **Uniqueness** → The status quo, or what is happening regarding your argument right now
2. **Link** → The link explains what would happen in a world where the judge would vote for your side. What does voting for you do?
3. **Impact** → Its the same as the CWI structure! Why does your argument matter?

Casing structure (Advantage) → Example

Topic (we'll have the same topic and side for now) : The pros and Cons of social media. As a refresher, you are side con, and you are trying to make an argument as to why social media is bad. Our argument was that social media was bad because it led to bullying. Here is what the casing would look like if it was in the advantage format:

Uniqueness (status quo) → Cyberbullying rates are going up right now due to the increased usage of social media among teenagers and young adults.

Link → Banning social media solves this, as people would not be able to hide their profiles online and would receive consequences for their actions. (By saying this, you tell the judge what will change when they vote for you.)

Impact (the same as CWI) → Cyberbullying leads to mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety. Bullying causes the suicide rate to increase by **30 percent**