

Lesson 6: Crossfire

Global Public Forum

What is Crossfire?

- Three crossfires in one round
- Each crossfire is three minutes
- 1st crossfire between 1st speakers
- 2nd crossfire between 2nd speakers
- 3rd crossfire/grand crossfire between all debaters



Crossfire's purpose

- Ask questions about the opposing side's arguments
- These questions can be rhetorical to make yourself look more knowledgeable about the topic or clarifying so you can better understanding the argument you're trying to respond against
- Avoid asking for evidence in crossfire, you can ask for this between speeches



How to ask a crossfire question

- Keep crossfire questions concise
- Do not speed read, talk as if you're in a normal conversation
- Don't spend more than 20 seconds asking your question



Crossfire time management

- Don't spend more than a minute asking and answering a question, allowing time for clarification
- If too much time is spent on a question, ask your opponent to move on



Crossfire in lay rounds

- In rounds where you are judged by someone inexperienced such as a parent, crossfire becomes extremely important
- These judges, known as lay judges, don't understand the technicalities of a debate round, and often use crossfire to evaluate the stronger team
- To cater to these judges, understand your arguments well so you can perceptually dominate the other team



Crossfire Tips

- Knowing the history of your arguments or having empirics in a crossfire can be impressive to lay judges
- Ask why as a follow up question to their answer when appropriate
- Call out your opponents for dodging a question
- Call out your opponents for interrupting you in crossfire

