

Lesson 8.1: Complex Weighing

Advanced (Link) Weighing

While there are many different mechanisms for impact weighing (why your impact is the most important impact in the round), there are also a few more advanced weighing mechanisms which allow you to prevent or impact your opponents impact.

The 3 most common advanced weighing mechanisms are:

Prerequisite: A prerequisite, also known as a prereq, proves why not solving for your argument prevents your opponent's specific impact from happening. In simple terms, it means that your impact has to happen **in order for** your opponent's specific impact to happen (your argument is a prerequisite for their impact to happen).

If my impact is an improved access to healthcare and their impact is hospital quality, an example of a prereq could be: having access to healthcare must happen before hospital quality is even considered because if you don't have health insurance you can't experience the benefits of the hospital at all.

Short circuit: A short circuit proves why if your argument occurs, your opponent's argument won't occur. In simple words, if my impact happens, my opponent's impact won't happen.

If my impact is war and my opponent's impact is the economy, an example of a short circuit could be: if war happens, the economy won't be able to improve. That's because during periods of war, countries' economies tank due to the fact that they increase military expenditure, and funding efforts for rebuilding a post-war world. Thus, there won't be economic growth if war happens, there will only be economic decline.

Link Ins: A link-in proves why your argument independently causes your opponent's impact.

If my impact is innovation and my opponent's impact is improving the economy, an example of a link-in would be to say that innovation links into the economy because innovation leads to economic growth. That's because more goods and services are produced, which stimulates business productivity, benefiting the economy. **IMPORTANT:** when reading a link in you want to clarify why you do a better job of impacting your opponents impact. This means for example "our link in outweighs on time frame because innovation is long term where my opponents only boost the economy once.?"

Metaweighing

In many cases, both sides will provide weighing for their arguments in a debate round. However, when both teams provide quality weighing, it is difficult for the judge to know which weighing mechanisms they should prefer. That's where metaweighing comes in -- metaweighing is telling a judge which weighing mechanism to prefer and why (essentially weighing the weighing mechanism).

While there are many ways to metaweigh several impacts, these are the most common ways to metaweigh:

- **Probability > Magnitude:** The magnitude of an impact doesn't matter if the impact is so improbable it never happens - you won't see the magnitude.
- **Probability > Link in / Prereq/Short circuit:** If their link is very improbable and doesn't happen, then it doesn't function as a link/prereq/shortcircuit into our impact.
- **Magnitude > Probability:** Our impact's magnitude is so large that we must minimize any risk of it occurring regardless of the probability.
- **Strength of Link > everything:** If an argument is 100% conceded then it is 100% true and has 100% probability -- this is the only non interventionist way to evaluate a round, making it the best weighing mechanism.