

# Lesson 8: Simple Weighing

## What is weighing?

Weighing is almost like a debate within a debate because it's essentially arguing the importance of each argument in the round. If both teams prove that their argument is true, then the round is decided by the weighing, in other words, whichever team proves that their argument is more important wins. Weighing is key in front of all types of judges, such as lays (parent or inexperienced judges) because even if they don't understand anything else in the round, if you can convince them that your argument is the most important, they will feel more comfortable voting for you.

## When to weigh

Usually weighing first occurs during the summary speech and extends into the final focus speech.

## Types of Weighing

1. Scope - your impact affects a greater number of people.
  - a. Ex. Climate Change vs US Economic Growth → Climate Change affects the entire human population, while Economic Growth only affects one country.
2. Magnitude - your impacts affects people more severely
  - a. Ex. War vs Poverty → War kills people, and being dead is worse than being poor.
3. Timeframe - your impact happens before your opponents
  - a. Ex. Climate Change vs Poverty → Poverty is happening right now, while climate change only becomes existential by 2050, so we have more time to solve for Climate Change than Poverty,

meaning we should prioritize Poverty.

4. Probability - your impact is more likely to happen
  - a. Ex. Conventional war vs Nuke war → Conventional wars happen all the time, and are pretty easy to trigger, while Nuclear War have never happened and take a lot to trigger, making the chances of one happening pretty low.
5. Prerequisite → our impact triggers theirs
  - a. Ex. War vs Recession → Wars cause Recessions, if everyone's fighting/dying and destroying the land the economy will crash
6. Short-Circuit → our impact solves for theirs
  - a. Ex. Economic Growth vs Climate Change → An increase in economic growth means that more money can be allocated towards Climate Change research, which will probably slow down if not solve for their Climate Change impacts.