

# Lesson 3 : Rebuttal

Global Public Forum

# What is a Rebuttal Speech?

- The rebuttal is the second speech of the round and is where a debater directly responds to their opponents arguments. In this speech you should focus on proving why all the arguments in your opponent's case are wrong.



**EXAMPLE:** Resolved: The United States ought to replace the Electoral College with a direct national popular vote.

## Rebuttal Tips

- Respond to the opponent's case in order
- Number the responses
- Avoid spending too much time on one part of the case to ensure that you have enough time to respond to all the arguments (if the case has two arguments spend 2 minutes on each argument)
- Use evidence/reasoning to back-up your points (you should have a strong warrant or strong piece of evidence for every response)

# Types of Rebuttal Responses

1. **Non Unique** → talks about how their impact is already happening in the status quo
2. **Mitigation** → responds to the link, and explains why the link isn't important enough to vote off of
3. **De-links** → responds to the link, and explains why the link doesn't happen
4. **Turns** → explains why their argument is actually a reason to vote for you

Example:

**Resolved: Physical Education (P.E.) should be mandatory in schools**

Your opponent argues that : **Sports are good because they lead to better focus which leads to better school performance.** Here are some examples of responses you could **make!** (Remember that better school performance is the impact, and higher focus is the link)

- Non Unique
  - Schools without mandatory P.E already have focus at an all time high, so implementing P.E programs wouldn't really lead to a unique benefit
- Mitigate
  - There are other factors like nutrition and sleep that are more important than P.E. for attention spans.
- De-link
  - P.E actually doesn't cause a higher focus span, because it gives kids energy, causing them to be more hyperactive and lose focus in class
- Turn
  - A higher focus span for kids is oftentimes really bad, because it causes kids to burn out after doing work.