

“Do Over!”

Goal of Exercise: To give students an opportunity to improve the speeches given at recent tournaments. To help students analyze their own speeches for weaknesses and problems.

Description: Before the tournament, tell your students to keep all their notes/flows from every round. (Never throwing away flows is a good habit to build). Encourage them to bring all their flows with them to class.

In class, have your student's pick any speech (EXCEPT the 1AC) from the last tournament they attended. The speech should ideally come from ...

- A) a round they lost, or
- B) a round they felt they performed poorly in.

The student will then re-give the speech, but not exactly the way they performed it at the tournament. Encourage them to reorganize, add or remove evidence, or rephrase certain arguments in order to make the speech more effective.

For very new students, you can ask what they felt was their biggest mistake in that speech (time management, dropping arguments, speaking too quickly, etc.), and then have them re-give the speech, focusing only on fixing that particular aspect.

Teacher's Note: Re-giving speeches in class is especially useful for new or struggling students. The teacher can watch, encourage, and make suggestions for improvement. But those students who are more advanced — and analyze their weaknesses already — can re-give speeches at home. Encourage your advanced students to get into the habit of re-doing 2-3 speeches at home the week following any tournament.

