

Basic Argument Structure for Cases

*Use the following outline to help write your case. Your CD/PF case should be approximately four paragraphs. Do not write as an outline but follow the outline explanation for the paragraphs of the case to help you write it.

Paragraph I. Introduction (10 – 15 seconds)

- A. Relate the argument to ideas that are, or might be, brought to the floor for debate.
 1. Use a quotation; and/or
 2. Use an analogy; and/or
 3. Use statistics to raise awareness of a problem
- B. State purpose/thesis (about 10 seconds)
- C. Conclude introduction with stating which side the judge or chamber should vote on (the side you are on aff/pro or neg/con).

First Body Paragraph II. CWDI Body #1 (approximately 45 seconds)

Each claim you make (whether constructive or refuting the opposition) should be supported with analytical reasoning and/or evidence with a good combination of quantitative statistics or facts, and qualitative case studies and quotations from experts. Be sure to state and elaborate (in your words) the importance, or impact that claim has for the overall topic of debate and why it supports or opposes those views. Each body paragraph is an argument.

Example body paragraph structure:

1. **Claim:** a contention or reason why you are for or against this legislation or resolve
2. **Warrant:** “This is important because...” reason why your claim/contention is significant
3. **Data:** evidence and proof to support the argument; explain how the proof relates to the claim (link chain). When citing the evidence, do not just type the URL. Use the title of the article, name of the source, author, and date.
4. **Impact:** how the argument relates to the judge/society/your side; your own elaboration on why the argument is imperative, especially to the particular side debated. Why should the judge care?

Second Body Paragraph III. CWDI Body #2 (approximately 45 seconds)

Each claim you make (whether constructive or refuting the opposition) should be supported with analytical reasoning and/or evidence with a good combination of quantitative statistics or facts, and qualitative case studies and quotations from experts. Be sure to state and elaborate (in your words) the importance, or impact that claim has for the overall topic of debate and why it supports or opposes those views. Each body paragraph is an argument.

Example body paragraph structure:

1. **Claim:** a contention or reason why you are for or against this legislation or resolve
2. **Warrant:** “This is important because...” reason why your claim/contention is significant
3. **Data:** evidence and proof to support the argument; explain how the proof relates to the claim (link chain). When citing the evidence, do not just type the URL. Use the title of the article, name of the source, author, and date.
4. **Impact:** how the argument relates to the judge/society/your side; your own elaboration on why the argument is imperative, especially to the particular side debated. Why should the judge care?

Conclusion Paragraph IV. Conclusion (about 10 - 15 seconds)

- A. State your primary points and issues
- B. Summarize your key arguments
- C. Conclude with reminding the judge or chamber which side they should vote on (the side you are on aff/pro or neg/con).