Speaking/Flowing in a Debate Setting

How to say it...

- Begin with brief introduction
- State the resolution:
  - “That is why I stand, Resolved, that ...”
- From here on, organization is spoken:
  - Observation I: Definitions. All definitions are contextually defined as follows...
  - Contention I: Harms. Thousands of people die from gunshot wounds annually.
    - Subpoint A:
    - Plank 1: Agency. This plan will be overseen by ....

Reminders

- Read with vocal variation, passion
- Talk with us, not at us
- Use effective nonverbal communication
  - Make eye contact with the audience – even in cross-examination / points of information
  - Gesture where appropriate
- Visual aids are not usually necessary
- Time the Affirmative case; stay within the established time limits
- Be organized:
  - Read the outline organization
  - When responding to an argument, identify by outline organization and by argument:
    - “Turning to the Affirmative’s First Contention, subpoint A where she says...”
Reading Evidence

- Briefly tell us what the evidence says:
  - U.S. residents are more likely to die from guns than residents in other countries with gun control laws.

- Briefly identify salient details of the source (Author, publication, date)

- Read the evidence word for word
  - U.S. residents are 117 times more likely to die from a gunshot than people in Japan and 39 times more likely than people in Britain, countries where gun ownership is not permitted.

- Summarize/identify impact
  - So, because we don’t have gun control, we are at an increased risk of dying.

Example

U.S. residents are more likely to die from guns than residents in other countries with gun control laws.

*Washington Times, September 2009*

"U.S. residents are 117 times more likely to die from a gunshot than people in Japan and 39 times more likely than people in Britain, countries where gun ownership is not permitted."

What they are telling us, because we don’t have gun control, we in the U.S. are at an increased risk of dying.

FLOWING: Keeping track of what is being said

- Use several pieces of large paper and a large enough writing surface
- Use columns to keep track of speeches
- Use different colored pens (Technicolor writing)
- Leave lots of space between points
- Write responses next to original arguments

- Use abbreviations:
  - $ money, funding
  - <, >, = less than, greater than, equal to
  - % percentage
  - UN United Nations
  - wi, w/o with, without
  - ADV advantage
  - DA disadvantage
  - SQ status quo
  - Ben benefits
  - b/c because
  - → leads to
  - Sig significant
  - Solv Solvency
  - Govt government
  - Δ change
  - ∅ assertion (no evidence)
Note taking

- If they say…
  - I. Localism is Best For the Environment
    - A. Globalism is bad for the environment
      - "Clearly, there is no way of protecting our environment within the context of a global "free trade" economy committed to continued economic growth and hence to increasing the harmful impact of our activities on an already fragile environment."

Sample Flow Sheet

Tips

- Flow as much as you can, and in this order:
  - tag line of argument
  - key component of the evidence (e.g. – a statistic)
  - date of the evidence [Is it outdated?]
  - name of the person being quoted [Advance debaters will have sources files that indict the credibility of many of the commonly used sources on a topic]
  - qualifications of the person being quoted
  - name of the publication
  - synopsis of the evidence [Quite often you will find that the actual evidence does not match/support the tag line]