

Public Speaking and Debate 2

Member and Whip

Members of government and opposition and whips

In this lesson, we will have a look at how you can improve your skills when writing the **speeches** given by the member of the government, member of the opposition, the government whip and the opposition whip.

We will cover the following:

- **Adjudication** criteria
- **Extending** flows
- **Summarizing** flows.

Member of Government
Member of Opposition

Members of government and opposition

Adjudication criteria

Speeches given by the **members of the government and opposition** must contain **only new** points of discussion. They can do one of the following:

1. **Extend** or **branch off** of the arguments for their house into **new directions**.
2. **Rebut** the deputy leader of the opposition and the deputy prime minister, respectively.
3. **Introduce** a new topic.

You can show off your strengths in terms of:

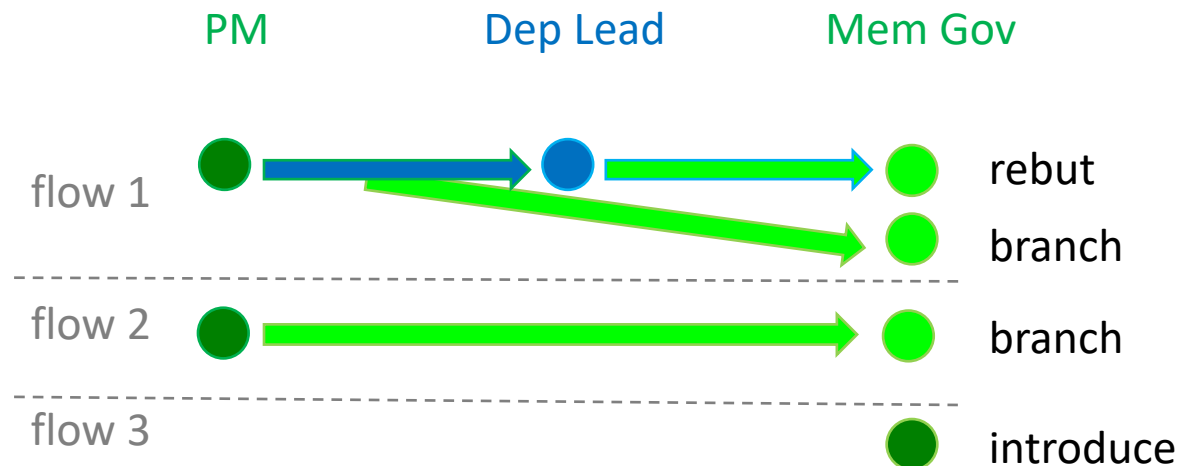
- **Definition:**
 1. Clearly **identify** each **opposing argument** you rebut.
 2. Clearly **identify** each **new argument** you bring to the table.
 3. Clearly **explain** the reasoning involved.
 4. Clearly show how your arguments are **linked** to the motion and the arguments you rebut.
- **Matter:**
 1. Present **all-new claims** and **counter-claims** based on solid **(counter-)evidence** and good **logic**.
 2. Appeal to **emotions** that move your audience.
- **Manner:**
 1. Be **confident**.
 2. Make good use of **non-verbal communication techniques**.

Members of government and opposition

Extending or introducing a flow

Before you can extend a flow, make sure you thoroughly **understand** it.

1. Check your **flowsheet** and identify the topics and associated flows.
2. **Extend an existing flow** by either:
 - **rebutting** claim made by the deputy of the opposing house, or
 - **branching off** of a claim by the leader of your house from topics left over from the brainstorm for the opening statement.
3. You can also **introduce** a new flow from topics left over from the brainstorm for the opening statement.



Members of government and opposition

Language considerations

The procedure to generate rebuttal arguments is **identical** to that already presented in the lesson about **rebuttal statements**.

The procedure to introduce a new flow or to generate extending arguments is **identical** to that already presented in the lesson about **opening statements**.

Language considerations have all been mentioned in **previous lessons** earlier this semester.

Government Whip
Opposition Whip

Government and opposition whips

Adjudication criteria

Speeches given by the **government and opposition whips** must contain **only** arguments that have been **discussed before** in the debate, and serve to summarize the case for the house they represent.

You can show off your strengths in terms of:

- **Definition:**
 1. Clearly **identify** each **argument** you summarize.
 2. Clearly **explain** the reasoning involved.
 3. Clearly show how your arguments are **linked** to the motion or the arguments you rebut.
- **Matter:**
 1. Include **every important point** mentioned in the debate.
 2. Make a **persuasive** case for the position of your house.
 3. Appeal to **emotions** that move your audience.
- **Manner:**
 1. Be **confident**.
 2. Make good use of **non-verbal communication techniques**.

Government and opposition whips

Summarizing an argument

The whip must thoroughly **understand** the flows contained in the debate, and make a summary of each one. Check your **flowsheet** and identify the topics and associated flows. For each flow, summarize the arguments, as follows:

1. Brief introduction.
2. Clearly **define a topic** represented by a flow.
3. Clearly identify and explain **all claims** made by your house that provided significant support for your position.
4. Clearly identify and explain **all counter-claims** your house's deputy used in their **rebuttal**, but only mention those that were **not successfully rebutted** afterwards by the member of the opposing house.
5. **If and only if** any claims by your house were rebutted by the opposition and those **rebuttals were rebutted by your member of the government or opposition**, clearly explain how these were rebutted by your opponent and how your house proved those rebuttals were **fruitless**. **Important:** If a rebuttal by your opponent was not rebutted, don't include it in your summary, because it will weaken your case, and as a whip you are not supposed to make up a new line of rebuttal.
6. **Repeat** for each flow.
7. Solid conclusion that proves your position is the only tenable one.

Government and opposition whips

Language considerations

The whip must **summarize** the flows in the debate.

Useful patterns:

- "One of the topics we have been talking about is <flow topic>."
- Claim/rebut/rebut: "As pointed out in the opening statement, <summarize claim>. The opposition/government attempted to refute this by claiming that <summarize counter-claim>, but this house could prove that the evidence they presented, <summarize evidence> was faulty/inconclusive. This clearly shows that our claim remains valid. In relation to the motion, this means that <explain how the claim links back to the motion>."
- Opposing claim/rebut: "In their opening statement, our opponents claimed that <summarize claim>. However, this house successfully refuted their claim by showing that <summarize counter-evidence>, which indicated that it is invalid/inconclusive. In relation to the motion, this means that <explain how the claim links back to the motion>."
- "Another topic we covered was <flow topic>."
- ...
- "The arguments I summarized strongly support the viewpoint that <paint the big picture>. In conclusion, I hope you agree with me that the members of this house have clearly shown that <repeat the motion>. Thanks for your attention."

Summary

Members of the government and the opposition either **rebut** the deputy leader of the opposition or the deputy prime minister, **extend the ongoing discussion** by extending or branching off of flows started by the leader of their house, or **introduce entirely new directions** of argumentation. They introduce **all-new** claims or evidence.

Government and opposition **whips** **summarize all flows in the debate**, including all important claims made by their own as well as the opposing house and 'prove' why the position held by their house is the only tenable one. They do **not introduce any new claims or evidence**.