

Extemp Debate Exercise: One, Two, Three

Supplies: A flow of any constructive argument

Participant(s): Individual

Purpose/Skills: The object here is to improve concision as well as a line-by-line approach to the rebuttal. The instructor or debater should pay attention to each argument in the constructive and attempt to answer every possible argument. The combination of all of these skills is what makes for a successful rebuttal. Practice attacking the assumption of the case, focusing on a few offensive answers, as well as attack as many arguments as possible. This drill should emphasize a balance between all approaches.

Description: The debater, in sequence, should do three drills designed to test the assumptions behind the case.

The first drill requires the debater to take the case and construct one argument challenging the fundamental assumption of the case. This may take some time, but it will encourage debaters to consider the case position as a whole.

After making that argument, the debater should proceed to the second drill. In this drill, the debater should make two arguments to each of the major parts of the case (the value premise, criterion, and each of the contentions). The object is to make it impossible for the opponent to recover from the debater's attacks. So while there are only going to be a total of about 8-10 answers, they should be the best answers possible.

Finally, the debater should deliver a rebuttal with the goal of making three responses to every argument made by the opponent.