

# Opening Lines

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The first 20 seconds of your speech is the only time when you are guaranteed everyone's undivided attention. Ask yourself what you need to do at the beginning of your speech in order to maintain their attention.

Within the first 30 seconds of any speech you should provide your audience with a roadmap. Tell them where you are going, what points you will address, and when you will be presenting rebuttal arguments. This will allow the judges to follow your brilliant arguments. Aside from the basic organisational stuff, there are some nice rhetorical tools that you can use as well.

**PMC: Must include, (in this order)**

- Statement of the resolution
- Definitions or Link
- Government's position in a **SHORT, CONCISE STATEMENT** (easy to write down), and some background info if necessary.
- Outline of the Government's points

**MO, MC, LO, PMR:** At the beginning of these speeches you can do one of five things:

**1. Rephrase the contention:** "What the government is proposing is that we abandon all our founding principles....."

**2. Crystallise your position:** "The case that we have presented on the government is one of Liberty...."

**3. Identify fundamental flaw:** "The government would have you believe that people don't know how to vote....."

**4. Identify what the resolution comes down to:** "Justice is about what ought to be done..."

**5. Statement of what must be proven:** "What the government must prove here today is that airbags really do save lives."

**PMR:** Keep the opening short. Explain where you are going to go (and how you plan to use your time) then do it.