

Flowing Public Forum Debate Rounds

Definition of a Flow Chart-

The notes taken during a debate round that relate one argument to another.

Reasons for Flowing a Debate Round- (JARS)

1. The flow provides an accurate record of the round.
(The flow allows you to record exactly what was said during the round.
This cuts down on false accusations and bad debating.)
2. The flow is used to help plan your speeches.
(The flow allows you to plan out your 4 step refutation. You can then use the flow to help you deliver your speech.)
3. The flow is used to judge the debate round.
(The flow helps the judge decide who the winner is because he/she has a record of every argument said in the round. They can see which arguments were the best.)
4. The flow is used as a research aid.
(The flow of an opponent's case can be used to plan arguments and research for evidence that can be used the next time you debate that person again.)

Procedure to Flow an LD Debate Round-

1. Get 2 sheets of paper and turn them sideways. (One sheet can be used flowing on the front and back but 2 sheets work best.)
2. Flow the Pro case outline as directed on the left column of the paper.
3. Flow the Con case outline as directed on the left column of the other piece of paper.
4. Flow the arguments against the cases as they are delivered.
5. Continue flowing until the debate round has ended.

Hints for Good Debate Flowing-

1. Be sure to put the Pro and the Con case outlines on separate sheets of paper.
2. Plan ahead. Be sure to set up room for all speeches. We don't flow Crossfires.
3. Use abbreviations when possible. It helps you keep up with the debate in progress.
4. Keep each speech in its' own column.
5. Be neat. Keep arguments in straight columns. Write neat enough to be able to read it later.
6. Use different colored pens for the Pro and the Con.
7. NEVER QUIT! Always try to flow as much of the debate as you can.