



St Leonard's College

DEBATING

TRAINING SESSION 3:

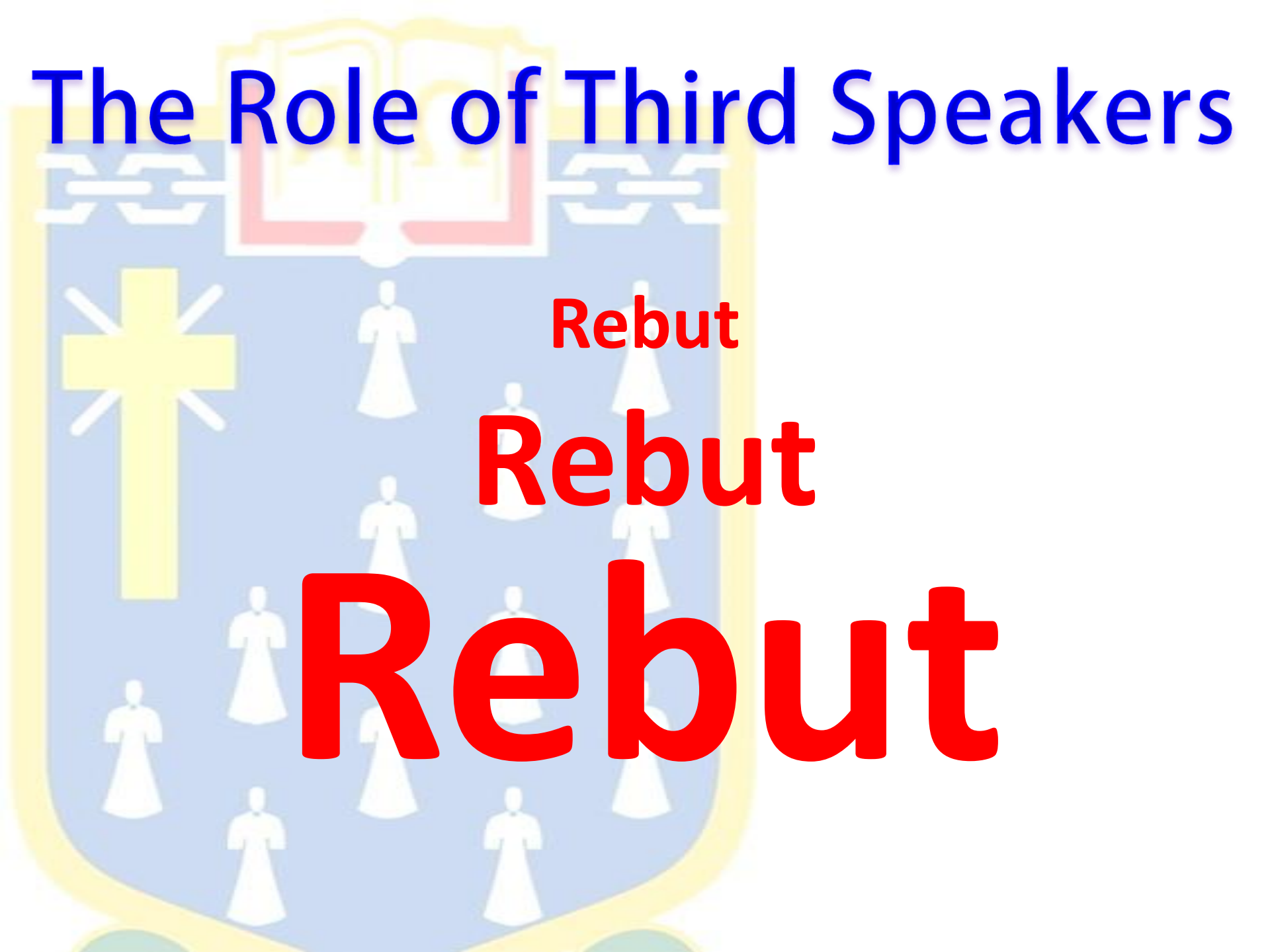
The Third Speaker

The Role of Third Speakers

Rebut

Rebut

Rebut



The Role of Third Speakers

The background of the slide features a large, stylized shield. At the top of the shield is an open book with yellow pages and a red cover. Below the book is a large yellow cross. The shield is filled with several white, stylized human figures in various poses, some standing and some appearing to be in motion. The shield is outlined in yellow and set against a light blue background.

Never raise new material.

Respond to the other team's case.

**You are not a second speaker –
you have a very defined role.**

Engaging with the dynamics of the debate

- This is at the core of what a third speaker is expected to do: ***Are you responding to the debate you EXPECTED to get, or are you responding to the debate that HAPPENED?***

Engaging with the dynamics of the debate

How to do this:

1. Always respond to the **actual arguments** that the other team puts forward.
2. Focus most of your rebuttal on their **strongest, most important arguments**.
3. Finish each rebuttal point to **linking** these back to your own team's arguments to **show why your arguments are better**.

During the debate

Preparation

- Think about what arguments the opposition is likely to make. You can go into the debate with general lines of argument already prepared (just remember to link it to the **actual** arguments that the other team presents!)
- Have brief, one-card-maximum dot-point versions of your team's arguments so that you can refer to them. The strongest rebuttals will end by showing how your arguments are better.

During the debate

Focus on rebuttal

- Write down (in shorthand if you can!) the arguments made by the other team when they are speaking. Focus on getting their arguments – not writing our detailed rebuttals of your own – at this stage.
- Use the time when your own speakers are speaking to go back over the opposition's arguments and pick out flaws.
- Never write out a speech in full – brief dot points are all you will have time for.

Thematic Rebuttal

The background of the slide features a large, stylized shield. At the top of the shield is an open book with red covers. Below the book is a yellow cross. The main body of the shield is light blue and contains a grid of white, stylized human figures. The shield is outlined in yellow.

Thematic Rebuttal is where you structure your rebuttal around **KEY THEMES** or **QUESTIONS** from the debate, rather than working through a series of smaller points.

Thematic Rebuttal

Themes can include:

- Economic arguments
- Environmental arguments
- Social arguments (i.e. the effect on society or a community)
- Education arguments
- Health arguments
- Law and order arguments
- The rights of individuals
- The practicality of the model
- *Etc., etc., etc. (there is no set list!)*

Thematic Rebuttal

E.g. *That we should permit fracking.*

“Tonight the opposition’s case has revolved around three key **themes**: the environmental effects, social effects and economic effects of fracking. I will not discuss these three areas one at a time.

Firstly, in relation to the supposed environmental benefits of fracking, they have argued...

These points are incorrect because...

This was also disproved by our own arguments that...”

Thematic Rebuttal

E.g. *That we should permit fracking.*

“This debate revolved around three key questions:

1. Does fracking have an overall positive or negative effect on the **environment**?
2. Does fracking bring **economic** benefits?
3. Does fracking have a positive or negative effect on **society/communities**?

Let's deal with the **first** of these questions: What effect does fracking have on the environment? The opposition has tried to argue that...”

Thematic Rebuttal

Key things with thematic rebuttal:

- Signpost clearly that you are doing thematic rebuttal.
- Signpost clearly when you are moving between themes/questions.
- Always state what the argument is that you're responding to. Try to use the oppositions own wording/terms where possible.
- When referring to arguments, don't speak to the opposition ("YOU said..."), but rather **address your audience ("THEY said...")**.

Thematic Rebuttal

Key things with thematic rebuttal:

- A good team will identify their broad arguments/ideas/themes near the start of the first speaker's speech in their TEAM SPLIT. Always write it down and pass to third speaker. This can often form the basis for a thematic split.
- Always focus on the strongest/most important points that the opposition has put forward.
- Rebut the idea and analysis that lies behind and argument – rebutting examples don't gain you much.

Summaries

- These are used to get you over the time limit if you run out of rebuttal before the first knock has sounded. Otherwise they are not needed.
- When choosing between rebutting and summarising, choose rebutting.
- Long summaries can lose you marks in method.
- You do not gain marks for your summary.
- NEVER summarise after the second knock.
- NEVER summarise for more than 30 seconds after the first knock (this will be the equivalent of giving your team split).
- If you've done your job well, you will have referred to your team's key arguments already in your rebuttal.

“That Australia should accept radioactive waste”

First Speaker (Affirmative):

- 1) Outlines a model for how and where the waste will be kept in Australia.
- 2) Current technology means that nuclear waste can be kept and transported safely, hence there is no reason why we should fear accepting it.
- 3) Australia is the most suitable location for the storage of waste due to its isolated areas and stable geology.
- 4) Nuclear power is good for the environment as there are no greenhouse emissions – and by accepting waste we are encouraging other nations to take up this option.

Second Speaker (Affirmative):

- 1) Australia is an exporter of uranium for use in nuclear power plants, hence we have an obligation to accept some of the waste that is produced by nuclear power plants
- 2) The waste dump will provide jobs and will be a boost to Australia's economy as it will bring in foreign investment and create jobs
- 3) The Australian government will receive revenue from the waste dump through licensing fees and royalties.
- 4) It is better for the waste to be kept in remote areas of Australia than in other parts of the world

“That Australia should accept radioactive waste”

Third Speaker NEGATIVE:

- 1) Firstly, I'd like to look at whether or not the storage of nuclear waste will be safe for either the Australian people or the environment.
- 2) Secondly, our opposition have argued that Australia owes an obligation to the rest of the world to support nuclear power and to accept the waste from the uranium that it exports.
- 3) Finally, I'd like to look at the affirmative's argument that we should accept nuclear waste because it is good for our economy”