SUMMATION SPEECHES

The summation speech is the last speech either side gets to make; this means that it the last chance for your side to say something and for all of the other side to speak via POI's. Due to this, we place some restrictions on what the summation speaker is and isn’t allowed to do. Doing things which you aren’t allowed won’t get you disqualified, but it will negatively effect how well the judges see your speech. The aims of a summation speech are thus:

1. give an account of the main points in the debate
2. give a biased account of the main points in the debate
3. not give new points or substantial new analysis

The above aims are what we have to do in order to fulfil our role on the table; this isn’t enough, we need to give a good speech. As mentioned above, it is a biased account of the entire debate (not just your side).

Do not list all the points given in the debate chronologically.

Your job is to condense 30 minutes of debate into 5 minutes and convince the judge that your side won. To do this we divide the debate into 2/3/4 themes, questions or areas of contention/clash.

“L&G, the debate fell into three mains themes tonight, all won by the proposition, these are: the practical effect on juvenile crime rates, the responsibility of parents and the effect on the young criminals themselves”

“L&G, the proposition had three key questions that they needed to answer in the affirmative today and they failed on all three: will this reduce juvenile crime? Are parents solely responsible for their children’s actions? Does it benefit trouble teenagers to have their parents taken away from them?...”

What these themes are can vary from debate to debate, some useful ways of structuring the speech are:

Who is affected?
  e.g. parents, children, society; criminals, victims;

What is affected?
  e.g. economy, environment, culture;

How is it affected?
  e.g. long term, short term;

Others: does it solve the problem? is it moral? are there additional harms?