

Debate Evidence

I. Overview

A.Card: A card is a form of evidence used in a debate round. Cards are “cut” to make evidence more efficient and effective. Cards can be used throughout the round but are most effective when preparing front lines to arguments.

Aspects of a card

1. The Tag: The tag can be seen as a tagline to a contention. Tags are meant to summarize the meaning of the evidence in one sentence, essentially it is a claim that is backed up from the evidence in the article.

a)example: If an article talks about how Lebron James averages 50 points a game and leads the NBA in rebounds, assists, field goal percentage, points per game and mentions his dominance in comparison to other players the tag of the article may be: **Lebron James is the best player in the NBA.**

b)Things to avoid when tagging

(1)Power tagging: Making the tag say something the card does not say or imply.

This is a very important technique to watch for, competitors may power-tag cards and as a successful debater it is your responsibility to catch debaters doing this. Power tagging can lose you the round if your opponent catches you with a power-tagged card.

(2)Mistagging: A mistag is when a card is tagged but completely off par of the evidence. This is similar to power tagging yet this can also be detrimental to the card. If a mistagged card is weaker than it can be debaters can often find a better way to word the card but if a mistagged card is way more powerful than the evidence than it carries detriments that are much more severe than a power tagged card.

c) Summary of the tag

(1)KISS: Keep it simple stupid, the tag should come easy after reading the article. Just as you know the theme of family guy after each episode you should be able to summarize the article in one sentence.

2. Cites: Just as you must cite essays, you must cite cards. Citations are pretty simple and can be effective in debate. If you have a citation that comes from a better source in a recent year you can often utilize that in the round. Citations should have the year, author, author credentials, and link or source

a) **Example :**

Sweig 2006 Julia E. Sweig, Nelson and David Rockefeller Senior Fellow for Latin America Studies and Director for Latin America Studies, “The Dark Stain of Guantanamo” **Baltimore Sun June 8, 2006.** Council on Foreign Relations, http://www.cfr.org/publication/10872/dark_stain_of_guantanamo.html

- 3. Content:** As you can probably imagine there is more to a card than just a source citation and a title. A reading a card without content is like going to the movies and only seeing the previews. Articles should be underlined for reading, this is an aspect of “cutting”. The card should be timed and indicated in the citation at the end.

a) Example:

Biopolitics leads to dehumanization and totalitarianism

Hasana Sharp is a graduate student in the philosophy department at Pennsylvania State University, 2002 (INTERTEXTS, Spring, p. 98) 15s

I would like to argue that a consideration of Foucault's predilection for military terminology and the deployment of war as a "grid of intelligibility" for understanding social relations must be thought of as a civil war, because we are no longer on the terrain of sovereignty where the relationship between core and periphery is given and stable. Biopolitics functions differently from sovereignty in that there is no outside to biopower (Hardt 140). Sovereign territory always exists in relation to its frontiers, their maintenance and expansion. Whereas punishment under sovereignty can be torture, execution, or exile, the punitive measures of biopolitics consist in discipline which transforms, normalizes, and subsumes difference--there is nowhere else to go, exile is impossible since divisions are necessarily internal to the social body.

II. Reading Cards

A. When: Yoda put it best when he said, “read cards whenever they apply you must”. Cards should be found in debate cases but should be more common in rebuttals. The cards will help you preempt arguments. That means your prep time to prepare responses can start the day the topic comes out. 60 days of prep time, Thug life.

1. Example: My 1st response is: Read card, what this means is X My 2nd response is, read card, what this means is Y

B. How: The tagline of the card should be read first, as though you are stating a response you would normally say, the only difference comes with the fact that you are reading a quote after. When reading the evidence read the underlined aspect, and when you are finished reading the card summarize what the card means, how it applies to the round, and what it does for you in the round.

1. Remember: Philosophical cards should come in pairs, one card explaining the theory and one card showing how it applies to the round and/or the real world

2. Use cards to impact the round, the more work you do in rebuttals to show how your arguments function and outweigh, the more work that you do to make your argument more real world the higher chance that you win. Also it minimizes judge intervention, and lets face it, intervention is just about as bad as Laguna Beach and The Hills combined.

C. Why: Cards increase legitimacy and substance of arguments. You look like you did your homework while the other debaters look like they threw together their case on the bus ride

to the tournament. You can be like Lil' wayne and be a hustler that would rather make a killing just by reading cards.

D.Where: Card organization is another lethal weapon in debate. One of the most common ways to organize cards is with an expando file with an index. Organization of cards can lead to more efficient prep time and much more efficient debate.