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Presenting Arguments

Goals:

- Show debaters the proper structure of a single argument: title, thesis, body, support, impact. You can find this information in the sample instruction at <https://vimeo.com/17454380>
- Help debaters identify their weaknesses and repair them
- Review a broad range of topics, to show in one setting the broad range of hat can be discussed in a debate.

Procedure:

1. Give each debater a different topic.
2. Ask debaters to build one major 3-minute argument for that topic. Caution them not to put the whole topic in one argument.
3. Ask each debater to present her argument.
4. Criticize the presentation, and show where it needs improvement.
5. If you have time, have the class deliver their improved argument.

Cautions:

- Make sure they follow the structure called for in all parts of the argument.
- Keep the process moving so that all can present their initial argument and some can offer their improved version.
- Make sure that their arguments are not just repeating the same ideas over and over again but are indicating the components of the argument.