

Convincing conclusions

You've now said all that you need to say on your topic and you've done your arguments and clash...it's now time to wrap up your speech. You've just spoken for 3...4...maybe 7 minutes and you want to end on a strong note.

Don't just look at your paper and go "Uhh...I think I'm done." You've just built all of this momentum and by just going "We're done." you've popped the balloon you've been building all speech.

A good way to finish your speech is to sum up your side's case. *"Ladies and gentlemen, side Proposition has brought up three arguments so far in this debate. They were _____, _____ and _____. We have proven to you why this debate falls on side Proposition and why this resolution must pass."*

Many advanced debaters look at the major issue of the debate and how it has been proven by their side of the debate. *"Ladies and gentlemen, the issue of nuclear power comes down to a lot more than just the environment or even the economy. What it comes down to is the people and nuclear power does nothing more than empty their citizens' pocketbooks, put them at risk and tread a dangerously thin line with the First Nation's population. And what is this all for? At the end of the day it is for nothing more than something we don't need, we don't want and quite honestly, we can't afford. Not just monetarily afford, but more importantly, for the sovereignty of our province and our country we cannot afford a nuclear power plant in Saskatchewan."* (Nasra M. - Regina Huda School, 2009)

The last few sentences of your speech - your conclusion - is your last chance to tell the judges why you have won the debate and why all of your points are better than the points from the opposing team. Use this time wisely!

Final tips:

Don't run over time. You can ask for 15 seconds grace, (or just keep speaking) but you leave a much better impression if you wrap up right on time.

Don't just trail off at the end. When you are finished, pause, smile at your audience, then sit down.

You don't need to say "for all these reasons, and the reasons my partner said, this case must fall/stand".



Your concluding sentences should wrap up your case in a nice little bow for the judges.