

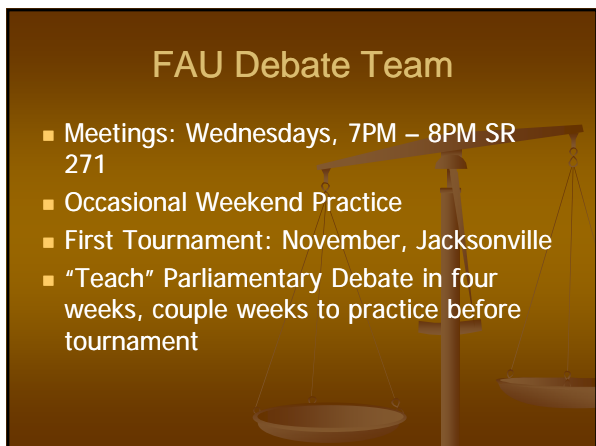
Introduction to Parliamentary Debate

Wednesday, September 26, 2007
7PM, SR 271



FAU Debate Team

- Sponsor/Coach/Director of Forensics – Associate Dean Mark Tunick, Ph.D.
- President – Alan Gray
- Vice President – Anita Helton
- Secretary – **POSITION AVAILABLE**
- Treasurer – **POSITION AVAILABLE**



FAU Debate Team

- Meetings: Wednesdays, 7PM – 8PM SR 271
- Occasional Weekend Practice
- First Tournament: November, Jacksonville
- “Teach” Parliamentary Debate in four weeks, couple weeks to practice before tournament

Rules of Parliamentary Debate

- Not too many "rules," many institutionalized "practices"
- Two teams of two competitors each
- One team supports (Proposition) the given topic, one team opposes it (Opposition)
- Fifteen minutes prep time before round
- Four constructives, two rebuttals

Timing

Name	Name (Alternate)	Time
First Proposition Constructive	Prime Minister's Constructive	7 minutes
First Opposition Constructive	Leader of the Opposition's Constructive	8 minutes
Second Proposition Constructive	Member of the Proposition's Constructive	8 minutes
Second Opposition Constructive	Member of the Opposition's Constructive	8 minutes
Opposition Rebuttal	Leader of the Opposition's Rebuttal	4 minutes
Proposition Rebuttal	Prime Minister's Rebuttal	5 minutes
Total		40 minutes

Speeches

- Proposition opens and closes ("frames" the debate; opposition has twelve minutes of uninterrupted speaking time
- Each opening speaker speaks twice; the second speaker only speaks once

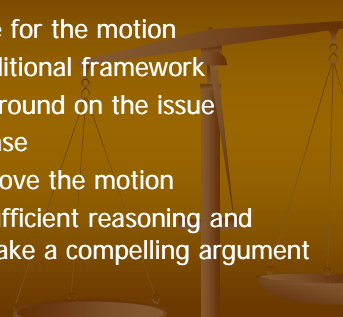
Speaker Responsibilities

- Can only use notes made in prep time
- Must present/defend topic, refute opposing arguments
- Properly open/close speeches
- Additional responsibilities/duties depending on particular speech being delivered



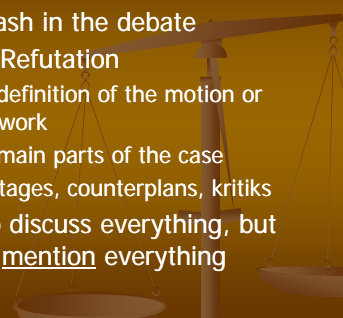
Prime Minister's Constructive

- Makes the case for the motion
- Establishes additional framework
- Provides background on the issue
- Presents the case
- Obligated to prove the motion
- Should have sufficient reasoning and examples to make a compelling argument on each issue



Lead Opposition's Constructive

- Provides the clash in the debate
- Direct/Indirect Refutation
 - Challenge the definition of the motion or decision framework
 - Challenge the main parts of the case
 - Offer disadvantages, counterplans, kritiks
- Not required to discuss everything, but should at least mention everything



Gov. Member's Constructive

- Last opportunity to introduce new arguments
- Proceeds 12 minutes of opposition speaking time
- Reestablish basic principles of the case
- Refutes Lead Opposition's Constructive

Opp. Member's Constructive

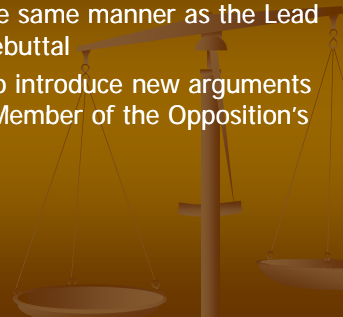
- No new evidence after this speech
- Present new arguments against the proposition
- Expand refutations

Lead Opposition's Rebuttal

- Select the most important issues in the debate and re-address (**NOT** summarize) them
- Arguments are required to have a foundation in one or more of the constructive speeches

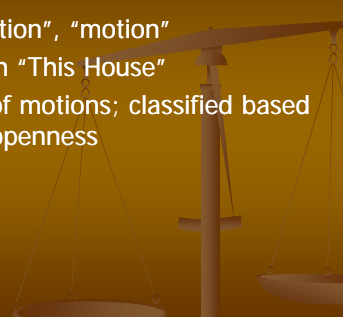
Prime Minister's Rebuttal

- Functions in the same manner as the Lead Opposition's Rebuttal
- Small leeway to introduce new arguments regarding the Member of the Opposition's Constructive



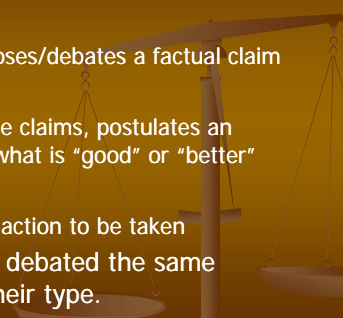
Topics and Topic Interpretation

- A/k/a – “resolution”, “motion”
- Most begin with “This House”
- Various types of motions; classified based on content or openness



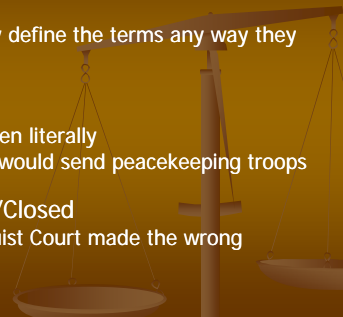
Motions by Content

- Fact
 - One that proposes/debates a factual claim
- Value
 - Compares value claims, postulates an expression of what is “good” or “better”
- Policy
 - Calls for some action to be taken
- All motions are debated the same regardless of their type.



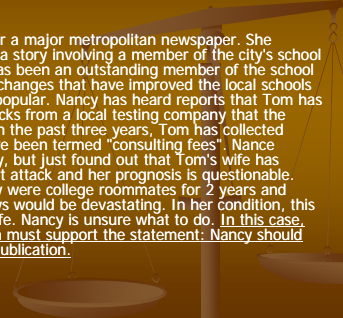
Motions by "Openness"

- Open Motions
 - Proposition may define the terms any way they want.
 - Ex: "Bury it."
- Closed Motions
 - Meant to be taken literally
 - Ex: This House would send peacekeeping troops to Darfur.
- Relatively Open/Closed
 - Ex: The Rehnquist Court made the wrong decision.



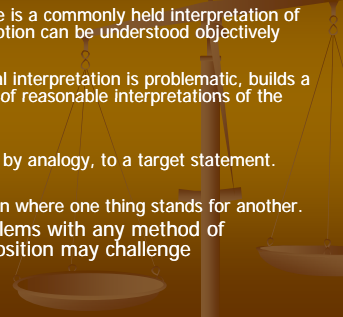
Other Types of Motions

- Investigative Motions
- Scenarios
 - Nancy is a reporter for a major metropolitan newspaper. She recently came across a story involving a member of the city's school board. Tom Harper has been an outstanding member of the school board, spearheading changes that have improved the local schools and made Tom very popular. Nancy has heard reports that Tom has been receiving kickbacks from a local testing company that the school district uses. In the past three years, Tom has collected \$150,000 in what have been termed "consulting fees". Nancy knows she has a story, but just found out that Tom's wife has suffered a major heart attack and her prognosis is questionable. Tom's wife and Nancy were college roommates for 2 years and Nancy knows the news would be devastating. In her condition, this news could kill the wife. Nancy is unsure what to do. In this case, the Government team must support the statement: Nancy should submit the story for publication.



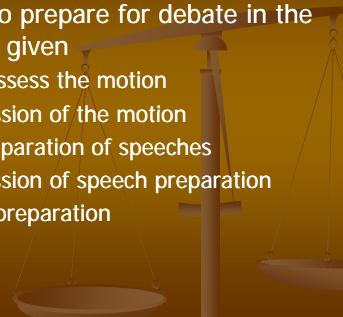
Methods of Interpretation

- Literal
 - Assumes that there is a commonly held interpretation of the motion; the motion can be understood objectively
- Parametric
 - Assumes that literal interpretation is problematic, builds a case from a range of reasonable interpretations of the motion
- Extended Analogy
 - Draws the motion, by analogy, to a target statement.
- Metaphor
 - Expresses a relation where one thing stands for another.
- Going to have problems with any method of interpretation; opposition may challenge



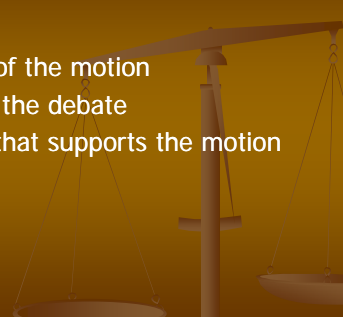
Preparation Time

- No exact way to prepare for debate in the fifteen minutes given
 1. Individually assess the motion
 2. Shared discussion of the motion
 3. Individual preparation of speeches
 4. Shared discussion of speech preparation
 5. Final speech preparation



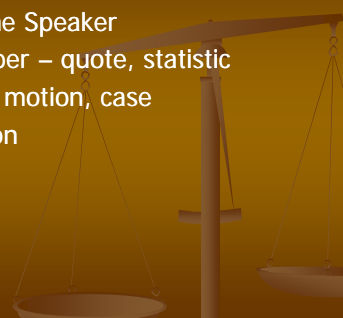
Construction of the Case

- Introduction
- Interpretation of the motion
- Framework for the debate
- "Case proper" that supports the motion
- Conclusion



Introduction

- Briefly thank the Speaker
- Attention-grabber – quote, statistic
- Connect to the motion, case
- State the motion



Practical Interpretations of the Motion

- "This House would significantly reduce free speech by..."
 - Reasonable (That makes sense.)
 - ...restricting campaign advertising.
 - Incoherent (What?!?!)
 - ...restricting speech in opposition.
 - Maniacal (You're crazy!)
 - ...muzzling all dogs.
 - Genocidal (You should be shot.)
 - ...detaining and executing liberal Democrats.

Frame the Debate

- Introduce a decision making criteria for the Speaker to judge your case by
 - "Criterion"
 - "Preponderance of the evidence"

Constructing the "Case Proper"

- Case Proper – material and arguments that directly support the motion
- How construct the case?
- **Policy Cases** - prove the stock issues:
 1. Inherency – Houston, we've got a problem.
 2. Significance – Houston, we're about to crash into the Sun!
 3. Solvency – Apollo 13, turn around!
 4. Desirability – Turning around is the simplest way to solve your problem, Apollo 13.

Speech Conclusion

- Summarize your points, restate your position, "zinger"

