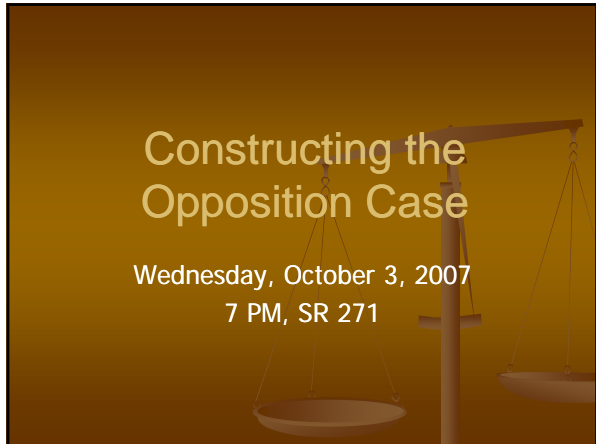
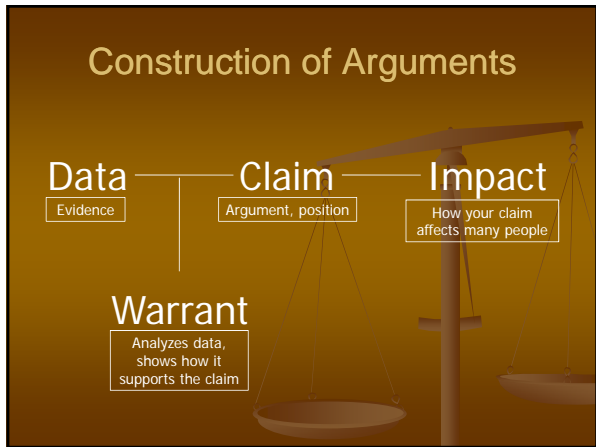


Constructing the Opposition Case

Wednesday, October 3, 2007
7 PM, SR 271



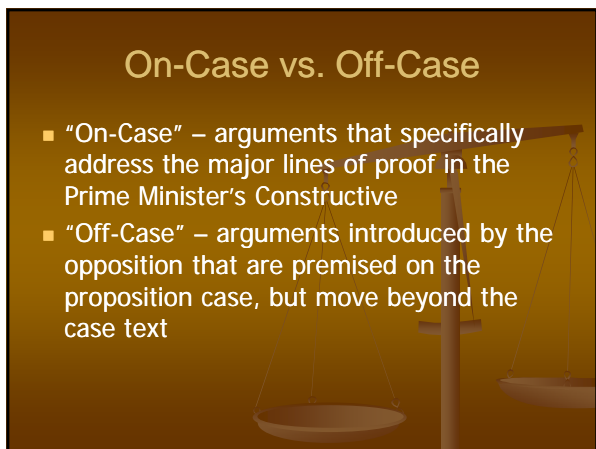
Construction of Arguments



```
graph TD; Data["Data  
Evidence"] --> Claim["Claim  
Argument, position"]; Claim --> Impact["Impact  
How your claim affects many people"]; Warrant["Warrant  
Analyzes data, shows how it supports the claim"] --> Claim;
```

On-Case vs. Off-Case

- "On-Case" – arguments that specifically address the major lines of proof in the Prime Minister's Constructive
- "Off-Case" – arguments introduced by the opposition that are premised on the proposition case, but move beyond the case text



When to attack?

- Don't have to argue with everything
- Strategic agreement is a method of argument by which the opposition concedes one or more of the proposition side's arguments in order to advance their own interests

What to attack?

- In a policy case, can attack any of the four stock issues.
- Inherency
 - Offers an explanation for the failure to implement the proposal
 - Identify other causes of the problem
- Significance
 - Minimize arguments
 - Turn arguments
 - Answer arguments (counterexamples)

Minimizing Arguments

- May be very significant, but only to a few people
- May affect many people, but is very insignificant
- # helped vs. # hurt

Turning Arguments

- "Turn" – one debater takes a point from the other team and makes it better suit their side
- Link turn – claims that an argument's connection better supports the opposing side
- Impact turn - An argument that reverses the claims associated with an argument's impact or outcome

Examples of Turns

Increase war on drugs
↓
Decreased consumption

Forces novice drug users to associate with criminals in order to purchase recreational drugs, exposing them to other criminal activities
↓
Increased consumption

Decrease nuclear proliferation
↓
If proliferation continues, political destabilization, potential nuclear conflict

Nuclear deterrence was an effective public policy during the Cold War
↓
Deters deployment of chemical, biological, and conventional weapons, and use of nuclear weapons by new nuclear regimes

Desirability Arguments – Danger! High Voltage!

- A negative desirability argument says that the affirmative's plan is not the best way to solve the problem; that the proposition's plan isn't "good enough"
- If the plan is still better than the status quo, however, then the judge will still vote for it!

Indirect Refutation (“Off-Case”) - Disadvantages

- Argues that adopting the plan will cause something bad to happen
- First, have to link the disadvantage to the argument
- Then, have to link the disadvantage to the impact

Overturn *Roe v. Wade*

Would hurt Court credibility

End result: no enforcement of decisions, destruction of checks and balances

Other Notes about Disadvantages

- Unique – must prove that the stated negative outcome will not be provoked by the status quo
- Brink – disadvantage will happen imminently
- Threshold – degree of change necessary for a certain outcome

Indirect Refutation (“Off-Case”) - Counterplans

- A proposal offered by the opposition that provides a reason to reject the proposition team’s plan or proposal
- Must be competitive (force a choice between the two proposals) (mutual exclusivity)
- Must be net beneficial
 - Plan is a bad idea vs. Counterplan is a good idea

Specificity of Counterplans

- **Generic Counterplans**
 - Agent Counterplans – suggests that the agent of change utilized by the proposition's plan should be different
 - Study Counterplans – suggests that more study is needed before direct action is taken
 - Delay Counterplans – suggests that there should be a delay in implementing the proposition's plan
- **Specific Counterplans**

Structuring Opposition Arguments

Undifferentiated Mass

Addresses the proposition team's case consecutively, and without structure

Hyper-Structure

Too structured; breaks arguments down into sub-points of sub-points of sub-points...

- Discuss arguments as they're being presented
- Signpost and tag your arguments
