

# HARANGUE

## Edition 2 - 2015

### Introductions. A How to Guide

By Britt Jeffs

Your introduction is the very first impact you will have on the debate and therefore it's important to make it count.

Generic introductions such as those that involve a welcome to the audience and saying your name and school can be made much better! Generic introductions do no harm to your speech, but if you want to get the edge over your competition and stand out, make your introduction unique, relevant and specific to the debate going on.

As the first affirmative, your introduction should set the tone of the debate by providing a brief explanation of why we are having the debate. This may be due to a pressing need to act or recent events have highlighted a key issue that needs to be fixed. Here's an example a good 1st affirmative introduction for "That we should ban smoking"

*Despite widespread measures by the government, such as the implementation of plain packaging, raised taxes and continuous awareness campaigns against smoking, approximately 290 Australians die from smoking and smoking related illnesses every week. It is clear that the government needs to take a harder approach towards smoking and thus we as the affirmative team believe smoking should be banned.*

In contrast, the rest of the speakers in the debate should use their introductions to flag an issue that they're going to raise, or use it as a form of rebuttal. The best way to do this is to try and think about what the key issue in the debate are at that point in time; where the key clash is. For example, in the smoking debate the typical clash is between the role of the government to protect citizens from health issues and the rights of citizens to make their own decisions. A good example of a 2nd or 3rd affirmative introduction may be:

*As the affirmative team we completely agree that people should be free to make their own life choices and decisions. However we think in situations where their health is in serious jeopardy, particularly from an addictive substance the government must act to protect its citizens from harm they simply can't protect themselves from.*

Here, the speaker is comparing the Affirmative teams case to the Negative's, and justifying why its position is superior. A powerful introduction like this sets the tone for the rest of the speech, and shows the adjudicator that you understand the issues, and which arguments you're going to win.

So next time you're writing an introduction, use some of these tips and make it better!

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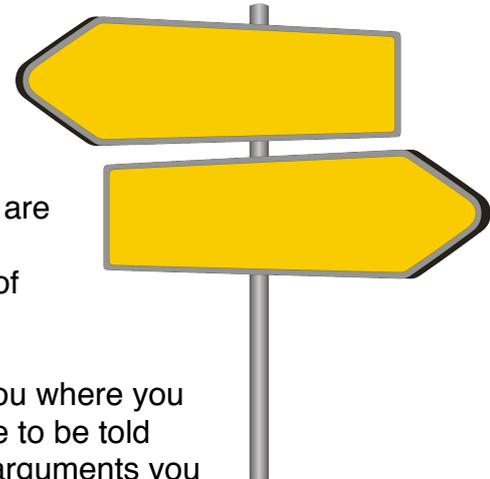
# Why signposting is important

By Jacqui Duong

Signposting is an important part of your structure. It's worth 20 method marks, and will contribute to 20% of your overall score. While this may not seem like much, having good method makes for a strong speech, and signposting is one very important method area.

Signposting helps the audience and adjudicator know where you are in your speech and what you are going to say next. It's really important because we are able to follow the different arguments of your speech.

Just as road signs are really handy on a long drive, as they tell you where you are and how far you've got until your destination, adjudicators like to be told where they're going in debates. It helps them understand which arguments you think are important and should be a winning issue in the debate. As adjudicators watch between 40-50 mins of speaking over the entire debate, it's important to highlight to them which ideas and arguments are important, and how they're separate from other arguments.



## So how do I do it?

It is as simple as telling us when you have finished one argument and have moved on to the next, and you can do this just by saying, "My second argument is... [then the title of the argument] before you move onto it. Super easy!

## But I've already done a split?

A personal or team split is different to signposting. A split outlines what you're going to say at the start of your speech. It divides your speech up into separate arguments. Signposting is letting the audience and adjudicator know when you're moving from one point to the other - when you're moving between arguments. Here's an example

### Split

I have 2 main arguments  
 My first main argument is..... [argument title]  
 My second main argument is...[argument title]

### Signposting

My first argument is .... [argument title] ... [explain argument in full]  
 I have just finished telling/told you why.....[argument title] now onto my second argument, which is about.....[argument title]

***“Signposting helps the audience and adjudicator know where you are in your speech and what you are going to say next”***

## I'm not first, so I do I still need to signpost?

Yes, everyone needs to signpost. From first affirmative to third negative, everyone who presents a speech should try to signpost. Don't forget to do it in your rebuttal as well – it works exactly the same way.

## Tips for Secret Topic Preparation

Preparing for a secret topic may seem like a daunting task, but some of your best memories from high school debating will come from secret topic preparation. You may feel not as prepared as you have been in previous debates, but that's ok, so are the opposition. The best way to prepare for secret topics is to have a good general knowledge and have done many debates before, so you can pick up on reoccurring themes and arguments (just think, how are debates where something is banned similar?). This though takes time and practice. Instead, here is a quick guide on how to make the most of out of your 1 hour prep time.



### Before the debate

- Go to the bathroom. You don't want to be wasting precious time during the hour.
- Arrive early. Roll call occurs 10-15 minutes before the hour so get there with plenty of time so you can relax and be prepared.
- Find the room you will be prepping in. Sometimes you may need to walk to a different building so work out the best way there so you don't get lost. Also check which room you will be debating in. They may not be the same so check beforehand and be prepared!

### In the prep room

- Bring all of your registered team members (max of 5). The more brains the better.
- Pen, paper and cue cards. You'll be jotting down and brainstorming lots of ideas so make sure you have your stationary supplies in order.
- Any relevant printed material. It is good to bring newspapers from the past few days or useful school textbooks (politics, legal studies, economic textbooks if you find they have material that can come up in a debate)

### How you should structure your time

- 5/10 mins silent brainstorm
- 5/10 group discussion over the issues
- 5 mins - team split and recap
- At the 20 min mark, NOW start writing your speeches (if you start writing speeches too early, it may mean you have missed an issue and not developed the case enough).
- 10 mins to go, regroup. Think of rebuttal ideas and double check speeches to ensure your team is consistent.

***“The best way to prepare for secret topics is to have a good general knowledge”***

### Helpful questions to ask during prep time

- What is the problem/issue the debate is about? What are we trying to resolve? What are the contentious issues?
- How are you fixing it? Can you explain even more WHY it's important, and HOW you are fixing it?
- Are there other groups affected (stakeholder analysis)? How will they be affected differently, or why are they more important to the debate?

## 5 Important DAV Rules

1. **Timing for Secret topics** - is strictly 1 hour of prep time. The complete speaking team needs to be in the debate room no more than 5 minutes past the hour, otherwise it may be grounds for a forfeit. Don't be late!
2. **The use of timing devices** - while not that common in Victoria, in many other States, high school debaters time their speeches using a stopwatch or phone to see how much time they have left. You too can time yourself if you like, using a phone or stopwatch. If using a phone, make sure it's on silent, airplane mode and that you only use it to time your speech (place it on a table in front of you during your speech, and only touch it to start/stop the timer). It would also be handy to indicated to the adjudicator this is what you're doing, so they don't think you're going to be using Facebook or Snapchat.
3. **Electronic devices during secret topic prep** - the use of electronic communication devices (including phones for timing, calling or texting parents or team mates) is prohibited during secret topic preparation time. Similarly, tablets and laptops not connected to the internet are also prohibited. If you need to use a phone to contact someone, do so in the presence of an adjudicator. Being found to have used an electronic communication device without the permission of an adjudicator, is a grounds for forfeiting the debate.
4. **Video or audio recording of debates** - if you would like to record any part of the debate (such as your parents wanting to film you delivering a killer speech) they will have to contact the DAV office beforehand to authorise permission. Permission can not be sought on the night.
5. **Cue cards** - they don't need to be use, but are recommended. There are no specific size requirements for notes, so using folded paper or placing A4 sheets of paper on a desk are all acceptable methods. The issue is you're meant to look natural and comfortable delivering the speech, whilst making regular eye contact with the audience (think of the way a TV interviewer sometimes refers to notes, but mainly looks at the camera/interviewee). Readings a speech from a phone, tablet or other electronic device during the the debate is also prohibited.

### Contact us

Want us to cover a specific issue or debating tactic?

Have a burning question for an adjudicator?

This is your opportunity to ask for what you want for the upcoming 3rd edition of Harangue

Send your questions to [publications@dav.com.au](mailto:publications@dav.com.au)

### DID YOU KNOW?

**You may have noticed that there was a common theme to the round 2 topics. In 2015, the DAV is working in partnership with the Victorian Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to raise awareness of indigenous issues.**