

A Firm Foundation Part II: Policy Debate Teacher Tools

Presented by S.D.Schultz

Special thanks to Andy Stubbs for his critical contribution.

welcome

- Name & where you're from
- What is your position on your campus?
- What is your debate background? "None" is totally fine!
- What is the biggest thing you're hoping to leave with after this session?
- What is the best film you've seen this year?



welcome

- Shanna Schultz, Houston TX
- I have no campus! I am a district administrator.
- I have been the specialist for UIL Academics for three years.
- 10 years of competitions (CX, WUDC), 5+ coaching (CX, LD, PF, Worlds), ADOF at San Jacinto College
- That's tough. Black Panther, Deadpool2, Tomb Raider, and the RBG documentary have all stood out to me.



roadmap

Teaching argumentation

Teaching flowing

Practicing refutation

Evidence

Speech practice

argument isn't just about winning.

- Argument (discover a truth) → conviction
- Persuasion (know a truth) → action

- Rogerian argument theory
 - Finding common ground and establishing trust amongst those who disagree on issues and approaching audiences in nonthreatening ways

- Argument to inform
 - Utilization of detailed information to help people make decisions
- Argument to convince
 - Attempts to explain causes of problems and encouraging people to act against those causes
- Argument to explore
 - Tries to gain insight, yours or others, into puzzling trends or issues.

argument types

- arguments from the heart
 - pathos appeals
 - difference between being convinced and acting on conviction
- arguments based on value
 - typically involve a comparison between what is and what ought to be
 - can be controversial values but linked to ideally accepted ones
- arguments based on character (ethos)
 - appeals to authority and reliance on their credibility
- arguments based on facts and reason (logos)
 - inartistic appeals (fact, clues and statistics)
 - artistic appeals (reason and common sense)

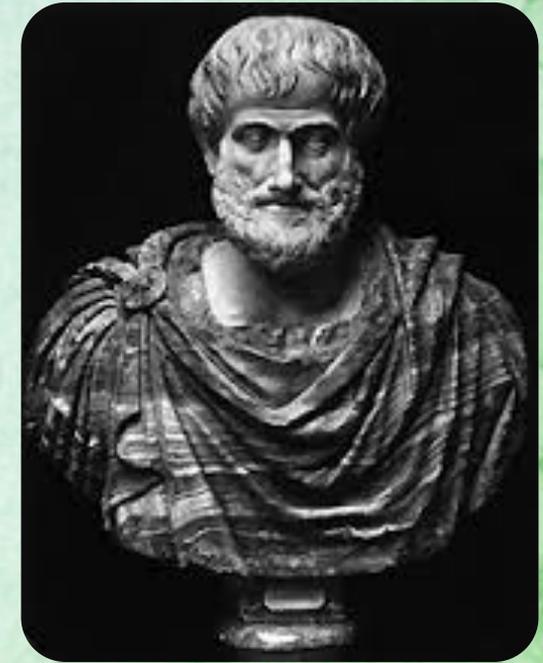
logic

- Classical logic: Aristotle

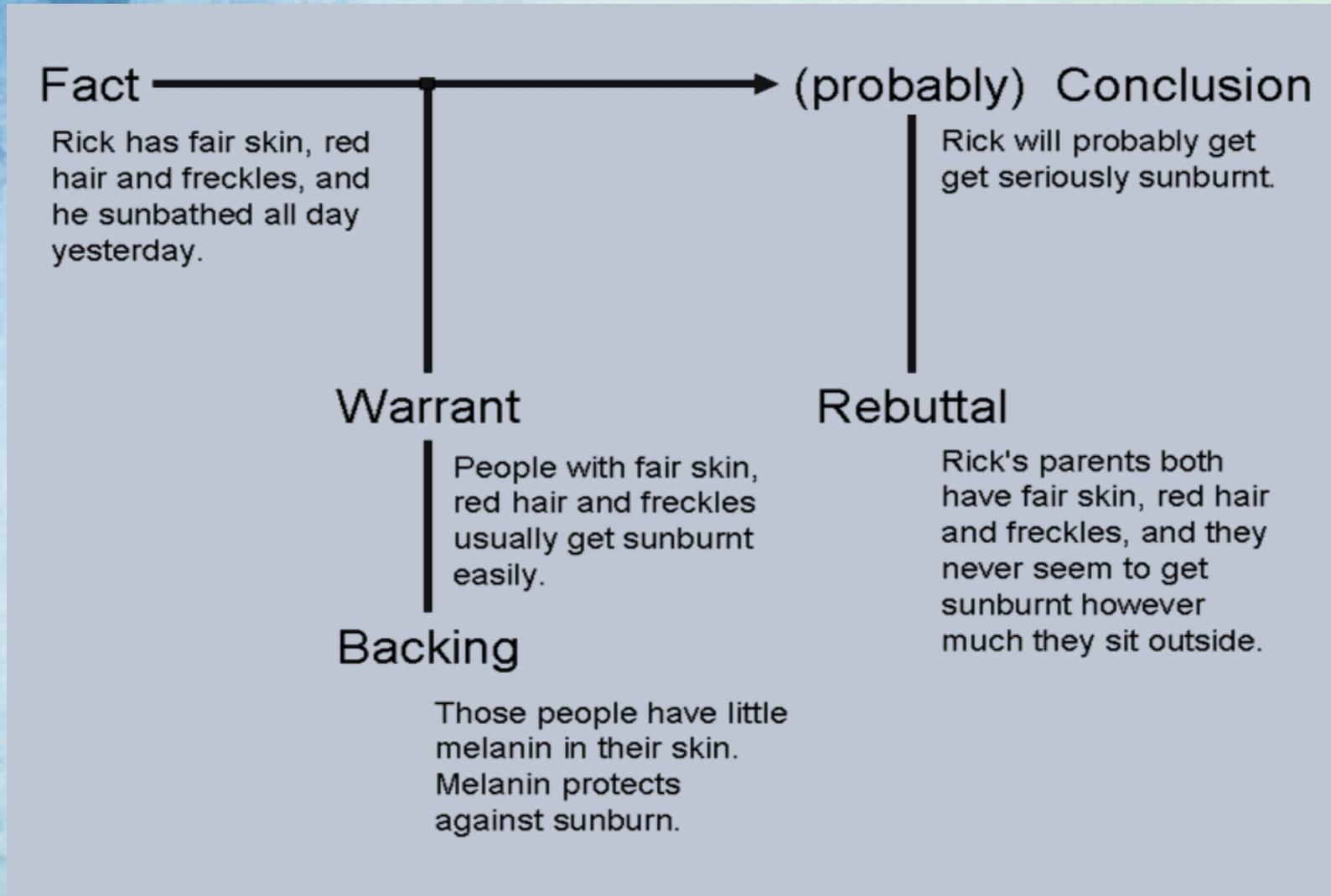
- Syllogisms (a vehicle of formal deductive logic)
 - All humans are mortal; Socrates is a human. Therefore, Socrates is mortal.
- Enthymeme = claim + reason
 - These are statements that have an implied premise
 - “We’d better cancel the picnic because it’s going to rain.”

- Avoid logical fallacies

Causal, Bandwagon, Either-Or, Hasty Generalizations, Personal Attacks (ad hominem), Red Herring, Non-sequitur, Appeal to misplaced authority



Toulmin (1958)



activities

- student build arguments on “simple opposites”
 - check for claims, warrants, evidence
 - then, interrogate each component; particularly the warrants.
- Examples:
 - dogs v cats
 - mountains v beach
 - rap v rock
 - apple v android
 - marvel v dc
 - fifa v nfl

flowing practices

Flowing the news

This can be combined with evidence practice

Flowing the cards

Let's play

refutation practices

- Select a broad topic
 - Ex: best invention of the 20th century
- Give students prep time to make their argument
- Each student gets 3 minutes to make their argument
- However, after each student, the next student is required to refute the previous student's argument as well as make their own argument
- No arguments can be made twice

evidence

- What resources do you have on campus?
- Critical evaluation of evidence
- How to use search engines and the limits of cookies (etc)
- Different types of publications + credibility of authors

Activities

- Look for appeals in the local news
- Competing search values
- Scavenger hunts online

speech drills

- Start/stop speeches
- Buzzer for buzz words
- Claim gambling



Workshopping and Best Practices

Links and Resources Mentioned

- OpenEvidence - <https://openev.debatecoaches.org/>
- UIL CX Debate Guidebook - <https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate/uil-cross-examination-debate-guidebook>
- UIL 18-19 Topic Rationale - <https://www.uiltexas.org/speech/debate/18-19-cx-problem-area>
- Cross X Forums (good for considering what's going on in the community) <https://www.cross-x.com/index>
- Reddit Threads – these can be useful for monitoring thoughts and arguments in the topic area.
https://www.reddit.com/r/Debate/comments/8ao756/20182019_policy/
<https://www.reddit.com/r/policydebate/>
- Verbatim Paperless; this is a macro add in to Microsoft word to help “cut cards” -
<https://paperlessdebate.com/verbatim/>
- Prep'D – Debate software - <https://prepd.in/>

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I'm always –very- happy to help anyone with their programs! If I can connect you with resources, I will!