

How to Ask Cross Examination Questions

You want to ask questions that are going to further your arguments. If you can't think of any of those, just ask questions you already know the answer to, or even questions that clarify.

Most questions during cross examination fall into three basic categories:

| Questions about your opponent's case: | Questions that support the arguments in your case: | Filler Questions: |
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| These are questions that are going to directly attack the arguments that were presented by your opponent. | These are questions that are going to, either in subtle or overt ways, support the arguments of your own case. | These are questions that are going to fill time or clarify things that you didn't hear or didn't understand about your opponent's case. |
| These are going to directly attack the case that was presented by your opponent. They can be very specific, asking a pointed question regarding a small part of the case or a large, overarching question that attacks the core of what your opponent is arguing. | These are questions that are often thought of before the round. They are things that support the arguments you're making. | These are questions that are either going to ask a specific question about something that you didn't understand, or clarify something that your opponent might have presented in a manner that was slightly less than clear. |
| <p>Example: Your opponent makes an argument supporting gun rights because they are embedded in the second amendment. You might ask a question pointed at that argument, such as "do you believe documents written centuries ago might benefit from updating to more current times?"</p> <p>In this example, the question specifically attacks the argument made by your opponent. You're *hoping* that you get an answer that supports your argument.</p> | <p>Example: You might have an argument in your case that supports single sex educational settings because of the science behind how males and females think. In your cross ex time you might ask something like "do you feel students might benefit from a learning environment conducive to their personal learning style?"</p> <p>In this example you are asking a question that *hopefully* gives you an answer that will support your argument.</p> | <p>Examples: You might want to know something you missed. You could ask "would you please repeat your value?" or "what was your second subpoint in your third contention?" or even ask your opponent to explain something, such as "would you explain the link between your value and value criterion?"</p> <p>In these examples you're making sure you understand your opponent's arguments so that you can refute them. You can also use these types of questions to fill time if you can't think of questions in the other two categories.</p> |