

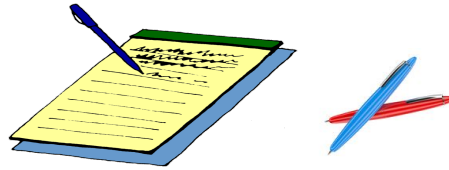
What is Flowing?

Tips and Techniques

What do I need?

One of the most important parts about flowing a round is making sure you have the right supplies. Different things work for different people but here is a basic list of the tools you'll want to have when you flow a round:

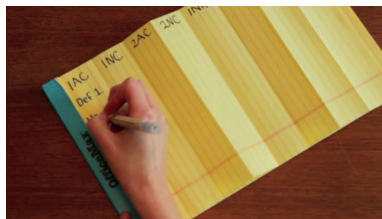
1. Legal or lined paper that is large enough to fit the flow.
2. Two or more different colored pens. The recommended amount is two colors for each of the opposing sides of the debate.



How else can I prepare before the round begins?

It's important to prepare your flow paper and have your pens ready before the round begins. Doing this allows you more time to listen to the debate and keeps you from missing important arguments because you were too focused on your papers. To make sure your paper is set up, you should:

1. Draw lines on your paper to section it off for each speech (you may want to look up the number of speeches for the type of debate you're watching).
2. Label each speech to keep the flow organized.

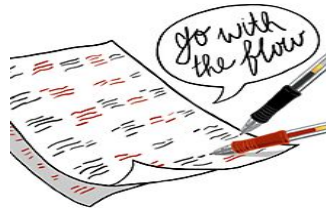


How do I actually flow the round?

Remember that you don't need to write down everything, because you may miss important statements or statistics that you would have otherwise noted. You don't need to write full sentences or

even full words, as long as you can understand what you wrote. Another important thing to remember is how each rebuttal connects to previous arguments and speeches. If you see an argument that extends across the flow, it may be helpful to draw a line to show it as such. Moreover, if you see a direct rebuttal to an argument, try to connect them on your paper to show that the argument was rebutted. Here are some things you should write down during each speech:

1. Important definitions
2. Values/value criteria
3. How each side chooses to weigh the round
4. Contentions, links, and impacts
5. (For constructive and final speeches) Each side's rebuttal to the arguments



What if my flow looks different than someone else's?

Everyone flows differently. Just because your flow is different than someone else's does NOT mean that you're doing it wrong. Just make sure you can understand your flow and that you're not missing the main points of the debates you're watching. Keep in mind that flowing well takes some practice, but as long as you're learning from each debate you're flowing, you can't be doing it wrong!

