

## Blocks - Example and Activity

This week, we will be going over the concept of blocks. Blocks are prewritten arguments that can be used to defend your position with ease during the round. By anticipating how your opponents will argue for or against the resolution, you can limit the need to come up with vague refutations on-the-spot and instead formulate strong, evidence-based counter arguments and have them ready to use before the round has even begun.

Blocks can also be used to supplement the evidence that is presented in your case: oftentimes, you will have found multiple claims to support a certain warrant but choose to include only those with the most impact in your final case. In this situation, you can use block files as a repository of all the evidence that directly (or indirectly) supports your main line of argumentation. In the event that your opponent has a direct counter to one or more of your supporting points, these blocks may be what you need to come out on top. [Here](#) is a video that will offer a more thorough explanation of how blocks can be used in round and a practice activity to master this skill!

Here are some general tips and tricks:

- If an outside source is used, you can either
  - Format your block in the same way you would format a card used in round, or
  - Format it as a snippet of your case (with quote integration and in-text citations)
    - In this case, make sure to create cards for your blocks!
- If no outside sources are used
  - Simply write your argument as you would in case (warrant, impact, etc.)
- Sometimes you may decide to remove a certain argument or piece of evidence from your case for any variety of reasons – rather than hitting delete, simply turn it into a block!
- Create blocks by trying to come up with ways to refute your own points! This not only generates arguments to use against opponents but also identifies holes in your own reasoning.
- Try to prepare blocks with different types of argumentation for a certain topic.
  - This can allow for a semi-structured rebuttal: “My opponent brings up [Argument 1], but in fact, [Block A]. If you don’t buy this, [Block B]. This is further supported by [evidence in case]