

Substructure

Substructure is the framework for your arguments. One way of thinking about extemp (or really, of putting any argument together) is to think of it like a puzzle; substructure helps inform us on how to put the pieces together to make a discernible image. Also, following these steps helps create a logical narrative for your points; one that's not only easy to hold in your head, but one that will be easy for the listener to follow.

The Basics:

Tag: a reason why your answer is correct.

Should establish an overall reason why your answer is correct. Tags should be able to complete a thought; for example, when you answer the question if you can say the entire question followed by your answer and then insert the word *because* before your tag line and complete your thought, you are making an argumentative tag

On Top: what we need to know.

This is a one to two sentence (maximum) bit of point-specific background information the audience needs to understand the point. This also serves as your transition.

A: what is it?

A sentence of two of background information and/ or articulation of the status quo (the way things are) to offer context to your point. Evidence must be provided.

B: why is it?

Change in the status quo-- explain why or how the subject of the question has forced (or maybe not forced) a change in the status quo.

C: Why does it matter? What happens next?

This is the *impact*. What comes of the alteration (or the continuation, depending on the question and your answer) of the status quo? How does the scenario play out? What happens next? Who and what does it affect?

Link back to the question: revisit the link between the tag and your answer.

REPEAT THREE TIMES

SUBSTRUCTURE OPTIONS:

- A) Cause
- B) Effect
- C) Impact

- A) Past
- B) Present
- C) Future (Impact)

- A) Problem
- B) Solution
- C) Impact

- A) $X \rightarrow Y$
- B) $Y \rightarrow Z$
- C) Impact of Z

- A) Theory
- B) Application
- C) Impact

- A) Need
- B) Plan to address need
- C) Benefit of plan

- A) Reason 1 that supports tag
- B) Reason 2 that supports tag
- C) Impact

Guidelines:

1. Your substructure should be the same format in each point. For example, if your first point is problem- solution- impact, your second and third point should also follow that structure.
2. Each subpoint, ideally, would have its own source citation. The A and B almost must have source citations, the C can be more of a predictive analytic, but ideally it is also sourced.
3. The A and the B have their own claims that are supported with a warrant.

4. Claims are arguments not evidence.
5. Warrants are evidence and empirical analysis.
6. Evidence requires a source citation.