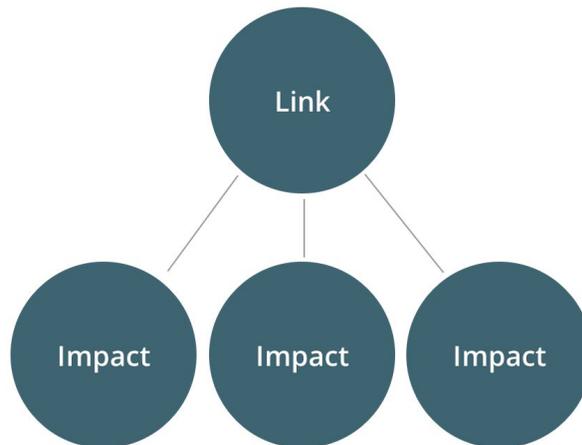


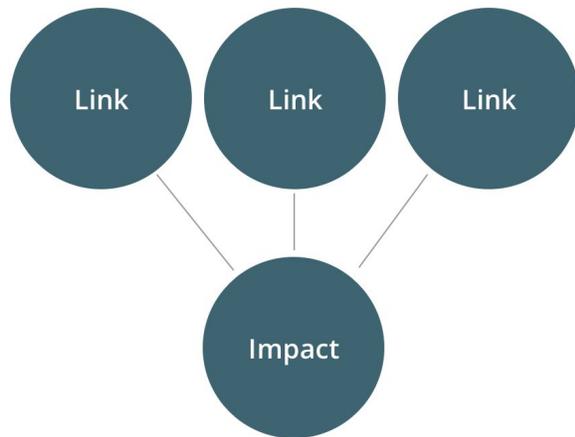
# Disadvantages

- How to Construct
  - **Weighing Mechanism / The Standard** – Not actually part of the disadvantage, your disadvantage should only be logically considered when it fits into the entire round as a concept important enough to consider. Ensure that the weighing mechanism has been presented, so that you can properly demonstrate that your disadvantage shows how the AFF case “fails to meet the standard.”
    - Words to use: the goal, value, criterion
  - **Link** – The direct cause of the disadvantage. For example, “their plan creates a new Government agency,” or “their plan reduces Space Exploration efforts by 50%.” The link may be exactly what the plan does, or a new expression of what the plan does. Even if the link is “their plan causes riots,” that it causes riots is the link and that riots are bad is not – analyzing and weighing how harmful the riots are is a matter of impacts.
    - Words to use: direct link, cause, spark
  - **Internal Link** – The sub-cause of the disadvantage. Use internal links when the opposing plan doesn’t directly cause something harmful, but causes something that in turn directly causes something harmful. Usually, the more internal links, the weaker the argument, because the argument runs the risk of dilution or the fallacy of amphiboly. Internal links may include extra information, such as global macroeconomic trends, that serve as intensifiers of the link or impact.
    - Words to use: trends, intensifiers, drivers, sub-causes
  - **Impacts as Internal Links** – Also note, however, that impacts may become internal links. For example, “jobs lost” may be considered an impact to some audiences, but others may see that merely as a cause of something potentially wrong or justified, so “jobs lost” may merely serve as an internal link to some further impact of those jobs being lost (suicide, children without education, or crossing the threshold to economic depression).
    - Words to use: leads to, serves as an intensifier, impacts
  - **Impact** – The harmful effect of the plan, where the link was the cause. The impact should analyze how what happens is so negative, and describe what that means for the decision the audience must make. The impact is part of the overall significance equation for the round. Thus, impacting includes substance-impact (with quantification and qualification, like people die, or how many will lose their employment), weighing-mechanism impact (how the disadvantage ought to be considered by the audience), and outweighing-impact (how this disadvantage compares to the net effect of the opponent’s advantages).
    - Words to use: results, terminal impacts, impacts
  - **Outweigh** – When you’ve decided that rather than demonstrate your opponent’s advantages don’t happen, you instead will argue that those advantages are less important than the impact of the disadvantage.

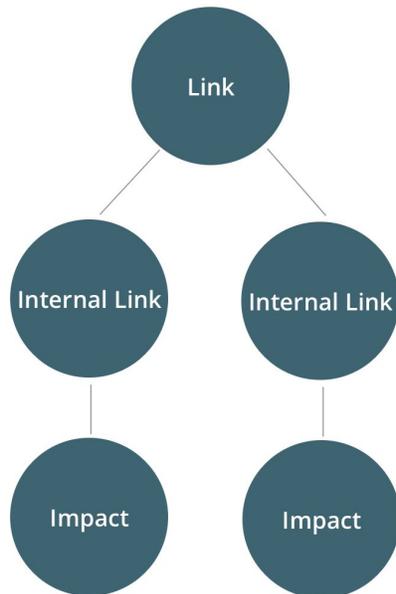
- Words to use: outweigh
- **Impact Calculus** – Reasons that your impacts may be considered to outweigh your opponents' impacts. For example, timeframe (the impacts will happen sooner), magnitude (more people will be harmed), likelihood (25% chance of success versus a sure thing). You can create your own points of impact calculus.
  - Words to use: compare impacts, compare-contrast, outweigh
- **Threshold / Brink** – For those disadvantages where the opposing plan creates more of an existing harm, for instance more over-spending, some unique reason that this plan's amount of over-spending will actually push the budget past a threshold that generates net new impacts. In practice, this argument is rarely used, as most debaters attempt to argue disadvantages that automatically have tangible harm built in.
  - Words to use: threshold, tip the scales, last straw
- **Uniqueness** – How the opposing plan uniquely causes harm, rather than simply being additional harm in a sea of harm. For example, if the disadvantage is going to argue "China relations will be hurt," a point of uniqueness would demonstrate how this plan in particular causes enough concern to merit specific attention. In practice, this argument is often not used unless the opposing team responds with a "non-unique" point to the initial disadvantage, since most disadvantages logically assume uniqueness.
  - Words to use: uniqueness, at the point at which, the precise moment, uniquely caused by
- Common Disadvantage Shapes
  - **Link → 3 Impacts**



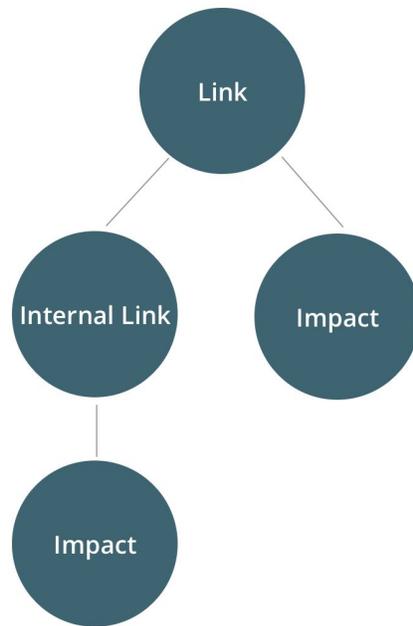
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- **3 Links → 1 Impact**



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- **1L, 2IL → 2 Impacts**



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- **1L → 1I + 1IL → 1I**



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- How to Refute

- **No Link/No Cause** – There is no direct link between the plan and the impacts.
- **TURN the Link** – The plan actually does the opposite of what the opponents claimed. For example, if they said your plan increases pollution (leading to an impact of death), then arguing that your plan actually would reduce pollution (therefore, by their logic, leading to an impact of reducing death) is a turn.
- **Non-Unique** – The harm caused is not uniquely caused by the plan. For example, if the disadvantage is “fisheries harmed,” then demonstrating ten worse ways those fisheries are already harmed may be used to demonstrate that the disadvantage *shouldn’t be considered*, since the harm of it is going to happen regardless.
- **Mitigate the Impact/No Impact** – The result of the plan is not meaningful enough to consider as a reason to vote against the plan. For example, if their disadvantage was that “foreign relations will be hurt,” you could mitigate this by saying “the amount of hurt done is too little to be of consequence.”
- **TURN the Impact** – What they said is harmful is actually beneficial, when you really think about it. For example, if the disadvantage is that the plan will cripple the public school system, you might turn that impact and say “finally, we’ll put an end to it and force states to choose better methods of education.”
- **Outweigh the Impact** – The impacts of different advantages are more important than this disadvantage. For example, if the disadvantage is

“complexity” but the advantage is “lives saved,” you might argue that the complexity is harmful (has impact) and does happen (has a link) but isn’t enough reason not to save the lives (is outweighed!). Hint: the weighing mechanism (value/goal/criteria) can often work as an outweighing shortcut, if everyone has agreed on the primary goal of the debate round.

- **EXERCISES**

- **Group DA Construction** – help everyone build a DA on the whiteboard (*shapes* style). Then turn the DA into linear presentation. Help them see how you might shell/extend it.
- **DA Make/Answer mini-round** – have a couple people extend argumentation on JUST a DA. Use the big group DA from the board or allow someone to create a new DA on a given plan. Then have some people be for the plan and some against it, but stick with 2-3 minute speeches on *just the DA*.
  - Looking to “turn,” “turn back,” and flex the variety of DA response muscles.