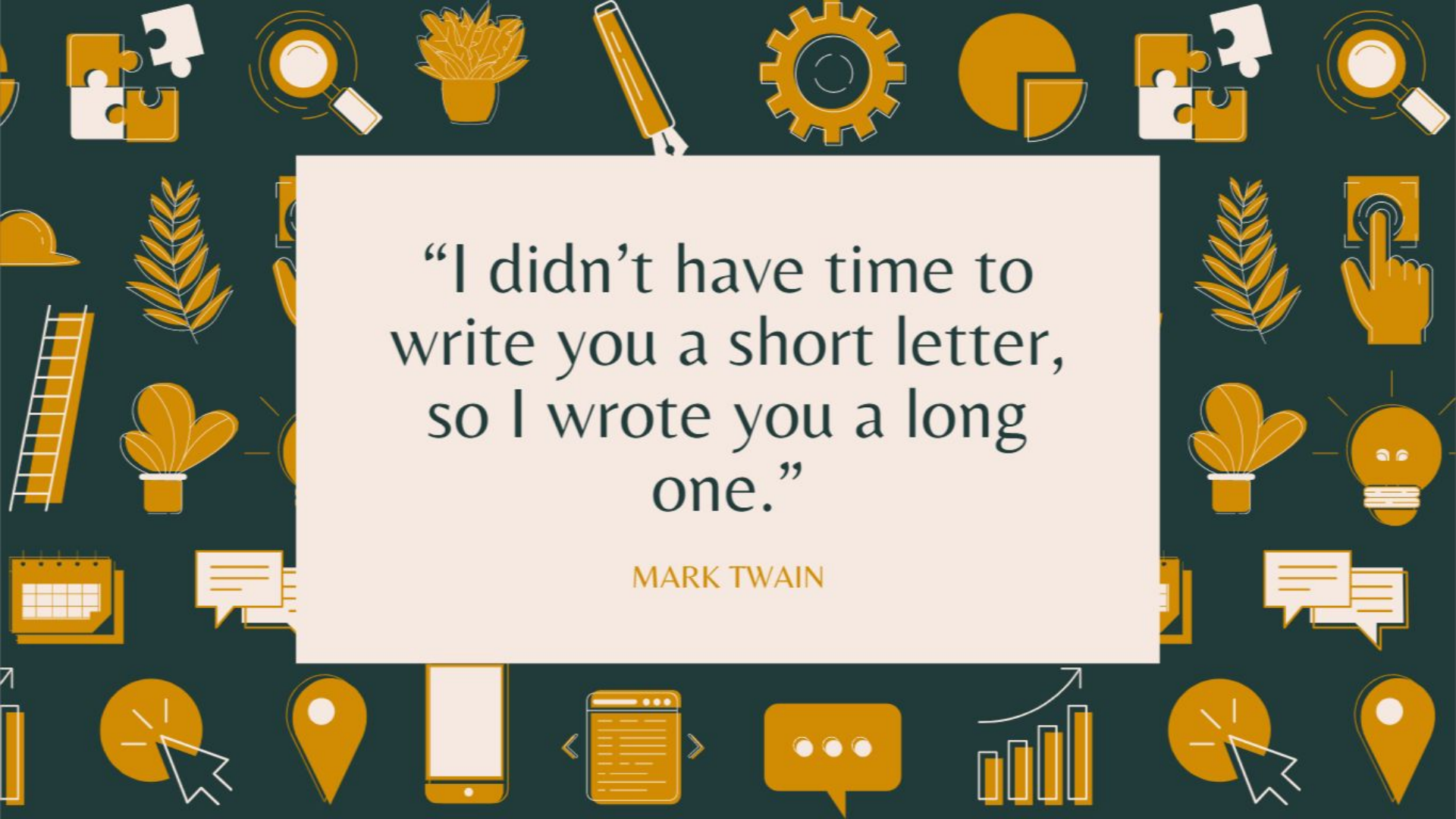


PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

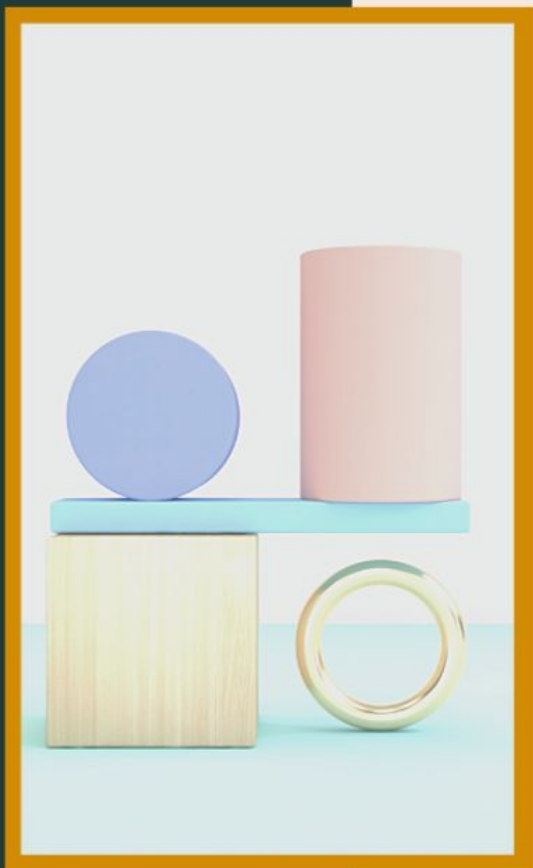
WRITING THE CASE

MS. BUSBY | SPEECH I



“I didn’t have time to
write you a short letter,
so I wrote you a long
one.”

MARK TWAIN



INTRODUCTION

HOOK OR ATTENTION GRABBER

-The introduction is optional, but you may want to include a brief hook or attention grabber such as a quote or a very brief story to capture attention of the audience and judge



RESOLUTION & STANCE

SETTING THE STAGE FOR ARGUMENT

- Serves to clarify what you are debating and your stance
- Usually debaters simply say, "We [affirm / negate] the resolution..."
- Make sure to include the resolution in your stance.



DEFINITIONS

WHEN ARE DEFINITIONS NECESSARY?

1. To clarify what the judge / audience may not know.
2. When you suspect there will be debate around a certain word or phrase.
3. When you want to utilize a definition to swing the resolution in your favor.

- For example if the resolution said, "China is a bigger threat to the United States than Russia." I may want to define what a threat is because that will likely be a large portion of the debate.

FRAMEWORK

HOW THE WINNER SHOULD BE DECIDED & WHY

For example: You might say, "If the costs outweigh the benefits you should vote negative or visa versa." This is one of the most common frameworks.

"This is the best way to measure the round because it gives neither side an advantage, so it's the most fair." It's also common for resolutions to start with the phrase, "On balance." We could say the resolution states, "On Balance, implying that we should weigh on balance the costs and the benefits."

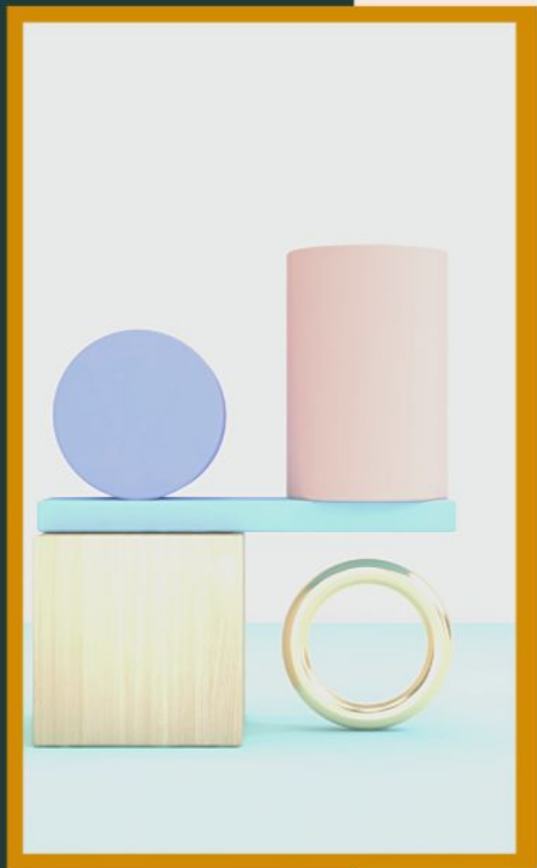


OBSERVATIONS

*OPTIONAL

- Includes: Items you want the judge to remember, and assumptions you make utilizing the resolution

For example, if the resolution was, "Standardized testing is beneficial to education within the United States." I could create an observation that said, "Observation 1. The resolution specifies, "In the United States." Therefore any arguments talking about other countries should be disregarded."





CONTENTIONS

ARGUMENTS AND REASONING

- You should have 2-4 main contentions

CLAIM

What are you arguing or trying to prove?

WARRANT

Why is your claim correct? Use evidence to support your claim.

IMPACT

Why is your claim significant?



CONCLUSION

BRING IT TOGETHER

- Reiterate your points and tie it together.
- For example, "We have presented 3 strong arguments which were x, y, and z. If you agree with Stephen Hawking's quote and the contentions we provided, please vote Affirmative or Negative."