

ADVANCED SUBSTRUCTURE

THE EXTEMPER'S BIBLE, 2020

JAMES GAO



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Basic Substructure
- Toulmin Model of Argumentation
- Common Forms of Substructure
- Unified Analysis vs. Layered Analysis
- Logical Fallacies
- DRILL: Identifying Substructure + Impacts
- DRILL: Building Substructure

1

BASIC SUBSTRUCTURE

What is substructure?

- **The way you design your three points to answer the question**
- How do you introduce new information (sources) in an easy way for judges to follow and understand?
- How do you demonstrate your knowledge of a topic and connect it to your question?

A-subpoint

Status quo

- What is happening right now?
- What background do I need to understand your point?
- What event/place/person/idea is essential to this argument?

B-subpoint

Change

- What recent event/information changed the status quo **that helps me answer my question?**
- What piece of current information helps develop the previously-introduced explanation or theory and **helps me answer my question?**

Impact

- **Why does this matter?**
- **Again, the Three Ps Rule**
 - **People, Prosperity, Power**
- Drop some rhetoric
- Often neglected
- “And that is why this answers the question” **is not sufficient**
 - Bring in an **outside impact** unrelated to the question

REMEMBER!

Good points tie back to

- (1) the tag**
- (2) the question**
- (3) the impact**

2

THE TOULMIN MODEL

a.k.a. Claim, Warrant, Data, Impact

Data

The college has recently incurred vast additional expenses.

**Claim**

Tuition must be increased.

**Warrant**

Tuition has been and is likely to continue being the principal means by which the college pays its expenses.

**Qualifier**

Probably.

**Reservation**

Unless the college manages to secure private donations from friends and alumni.

**Backing**

Over the last 40 years, each time the college incurred large expenses it raised tuition.

CLAIM

Your argument; what you are hoping to prove true

DATA

The information you provide that supports your claim

WARRANT (BACKING)

The logical reasoning tying your data to your claim

QUALIFIER/RESERVATION

Additional information that should be considered when evaluating an argument

IMPACT

Not necessary for a sound argument; necessary for a good argument

APPLYING THE TOULMIN MODEL

Each point should follow the Toulmin model...

Tag = CLAIM

A-subpoint = DATA

B-subpoint = WARRANT

Impact = IMPACT

APPLYING THE TOULMIN MODEL

... but so should each subpoint.



APPLYING THE TOULMIN MODEL

A-subpoint

CLAIM: What is true about the status quo right now?

DATA: What source proves it?

WARRANT: How does that evidence tie to my claim?

B-subpoint

CLAIM: What makes the claim I made in my tag true?


DATA: What source proves that my A-subpoint claim is a good warrant for my tag?

WARRANT: How does that evidence make my tag true?

3

SUBSTRUCTURE FORMATS

And how to pick them

- 
- 1. Example-Example-Impact**
 - 2. Cause-Effect-Impact**
 - 3. Past-Present-Future**
 - 4. Problem-Solution-Impact**
 - 5. Theory-Application-Impact**
 - 6. Premise-Rebuttal-Impact**

Example-Example-Impact

- The “novice” format(?)
- Reliant on well-developed, independent A and B
- Best suited for sweeping, broad speeches
- **Avoid in most other scenarios**

Example-Example-Impact

[ExtempCentral, 2008: Alternate \(Sub\)Structure](#)

“When done appropriately, **the case study format can show that the speaker has a vast array of knowledge while also bringing depth to a speech.**”

2005 IX Final: *Is the UN mankind's lone (and best) hope?*

Point 1: International challenges demand global cooperation

A. Diplomatic Conflicts → “Entangling WW1 alliances engulfed nations in war; the UN brings nations together without those alliances.”

B. Humanitarian Arenas → “Darfur, AIDS, poverty, and other humanitarian crises all require global cooperation.”

I. Terrorism → “There must be cooperation to stop transit of nuclear weapons.”

Cause-Effect-Impact

- **One of the most versatile formats**
- Best for “Why”, “Has” and other status quo-centric questions
- Dependent on a strong A: **your audience needs to buy your cause, completely**

Cause-Effect-Impact

[From Daniel Kind, Gus Lanz](#)

2020 Harvard Semifinal: *Will Abiy Ahmed's support be upheld in August elections?*

Point 1: Abiy Ahmed appeals to vulnerable populations

- A. Ahmed has taken steps to promote Oromo and women in politics in Ethiopia
- B. Will lead to massive goodwill among these large voting blocs
- I. Ethiopia will be a more representative democracy & serve as a model for other countries

Past-Present-Future

- **One of the most versatile formats**
- Especially valuable for explaining foreign situations simply
- Useful for “Will” “Can” and other prescription questions
- Remember, “future” is answering the question, **not** creating an impact → make sure you still do that!

Past-Present-Future

[NSDA, Christopher Maximos](#)

2019 USX Final: *How will the Green New Deal influence future environmental legislation?*

Point 1: By forcing bipartisan cooperation on climate change

A. Republicans denied climate change/had no policy in 2012/2016

B. Now, 64% of Republicans believe climate change is a “severe threat”

I. Public concern over Green New Deal leads to clean energy legislation

Impact: Could lead to solutions like a carbon tax

Problem-Solution-Impact

- Your go-to for questions about solvency - “How” or “What steps”
- Useful for prescriptive “Can” and “Will” questions as well
- **“Higher-level”** → allows for more creativity
- The more specific your solution, the more unique
- Solvency is beneficial but not required
- **Tend to run the longest - watch out!**

Problem-Solution-Impact

[NSDA, Olivia Shoemaker](#)

2017, IX Final: *What can be done to alleviate Venezuela's economic crisis?*

Point 2: Paying back international creditors

A. Maduro owes more than \$56 billion to foreign creditors; Venezuela could default

B IMF and other international orgs. would benefit from a debt restructuring, and Maduro would get political leverage

I Improve international reputation

Theory-Application-Impact

- **Very versatile** - works for both status-quo analysis, prescriptive questions, and solvency questions
- **“Higher-level”** → allows for more creativity
- Requires familiarity with political and economic theories - ***but doesn't have to be complex!***
- Application must be grounded and clearly apply
- **Tend to run the longest - watch out!**

Theory-Application-Impact

[ExtempCentral, 2008: Alternate \(Sub\)Structure](#)

Is Nepal's young democracy developing effectively?

Point 1: The government has failed to instill institutions necessary to ascertain social justice.

A. A patriarchal state is inherently undemocratic → “Women’s rights remain critical to the idea of democracy as becoming the will of the people... Without appropriate education for women they cannot engage effectively in an advanced economy crippling hopes of being legitimate democratic state.” –*Sex and Social Justice*, Martha Nussbaum

B. Nepal has failed to provide women with adequate voting rights.

C. Resultantly, women are poorly educated - perpetuating a cycle.

Premise-Rebuttal-Impact

- **Very versatile** - works just about anywhere
- Requires a familiarity with common political beliefs
- In the A, acknowledge the other side and give it credence - especially if it's popular - before arguing against it in the B
- **Give two sides only on issues that can be analyzed**

Premise-Rebuttal-Impact

Practice speech: *Should the United States end its arms trade with Saudi Arabia?*

Point 1: Results in greater civilian casualties

A. US arms in Yemen result in mass suffering

B. Will only lead to Saudi purchase of more Chinese/Russian weapons, which are less precise/more faulty → more accidental deaths

I. Loss of geostrategic partner while failing to alleviate humanitarian crisis

3

UNIFIED ANALYSIS VS. LAYERED ANALYSIS



WHAT IS UNIFIED ANALYSIS?

- **The best way to do it**
- **Answer as thesis, analysis afterwards**
- All three points fall under one umbrella answer
 - All three points are arguments
- Three points all stand on their own



WHAT IS UNIFIED ANALYSIS?

Things that are not unified analysis

- “The answer is yes.”
- “The answer is threefold.”
- “First, politically. Second, economically. Third, militarily.”

The order of your points matters!

LAYERED ANALYSIS

What happens if my point is too complex?

(Personal prescription, not proven extemp advice)

- *Use layered analysis, where all three points set up for one answer only.*
- Point 1: Context
- Point 2: Link
- Point 3: Answer

LAYERED ANALYSIS

To what extent should lawmakers consider the national debt in their coronavirus response agenda?

A: Not at all, because of Modern Monetary Theory

LAYERED ANALYSIS

Point 1: Establishing context

- What is MMT? Why is it relevant? Who are its proponents? How does it function as an economic concept?

Point 2: Linking to the answer

- How does MMT relate to the national debt? Why is it true?

Point 3: Answering the question

- Because MMT is true, a policymaker's agenda should ignore the national debt and instead focus on _____.

4

LOGICAL FALLACIES

STRAWMAN ARGUMENT

- Refuting an argument that the other side did not make
- Liberal: I think the U.S. should institute a ban on owning assault weapons to curtail some of the mass shootings.
- Conservative: So, you think we should take away people's guns and abolish the Second Amendment?
- Conservative: The U.S. needs to do a better job of securing its borders and enforcing its immigration laws.
- Liberal: How on earth are we going to round up and deport the 11 to 12 million undocumented immigrants that are currently living in America?!?

There is always an implicit "other side"!

From Intellectual Takeout

FALSE DICHOTOMIES (DILEMMAS)

- Being misled to believe that there are only two options when, there are, in reality, more
- Watch out for this during *any* prescriptive extemp speech

Argument: “You cannot call yourself an ally of Israel and criticize their interactions with Palestine. If you do criticize the nation of Israel then that makes you anti-Semitic and means you invariably support terrorists.”

Counter: This argument presents a false dichotomy as it asserts that the only two possibilities are either fully accepting Israel’s military presence and activity without question or outing yourself as an anti-Semite.

There is room for alternate possibilities in these scenarios.

[From DevelopGoodHabits](#)

POST HOC ERGO PROPTER SUM

- This is a conclusion that assumes that if 'B' occurred after 'A' then 'A' must have caused 'B.'
- **Extremely common in Extemp**



Travis View @travis_view · Oct 31, 2019

I think Trump might be unfamiliar with the "post hoc ergo propter hoc" fallacy.



Donald J. Trump  @realDonaldTrump · Oct 31, 2019

The Impeachment Hoax is hurting our Stock Market. The Do Nothing Democrats don't care!



33



22



189



HASTY GENERALIZATION

- A fallacy in which a conclusion that is reached is not logically justified by sufficient or unbiased evidence
- Relevant for foreign speeches

Benjamin Shapiro gave a speech for pro-life and said that he donated money to charities. An audience member asked him, "So, have you donated to Planned Parenthood?" Shapiro said, "No, because they kill babies; they kill 300,000 unborn children a year! I don't donate to a baby genocidal organization like Planned Parenthood." In his answer, he used the hasty generalization fallacy. It is true that Planned Parenthood provides abortion service, but it also provides other services such as birth control, long-acting reversible contraception, cervical cancer screening, etc

From College of the Holy Cross

5

IDENTIFYING SUBSTRUCTURE

Has COVID-19 heightened the rural-urban divide in US politics?

Umbrella: Yes, it has highlighted underlying divisions

Point 1: Accelerated disillusionment with government

A: “Urban bias” - the belief that rural areas suffer because governments are only designed with the needs of urbanites in mind

B: Rural citizens don't think that masks, social distancing are necessary in sparsely populated areas

I:

Has AMLO followed through on his campaign promises?

Umbrella: No, and Mexico is a more fragile state because of it

Point 2: Failed to alleviate gang violence

A: Mexican gang violence has reached record rates - including 35,000 murders in 2019

B: AMLO's policies of non-violence and creation of a National Guard have failed to quell violence

I:

6

BUILDING SUBSTRUCTURE

QUESTIONS

STATUS QUO ANALYSIS

1. What lessons can the world learn from Sweden's COVID-19 response?
2. Have carbon taxes shown themselves to be viable solutions for climate change?
3. Should Donald Trump remove Mike Pence from his 2020 ticket?
4. Has Nigeria effectively contained COVID-19?

PRESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

1. What do SCOTUS's recent rulings mean for the future of religious freedom?
2. What does the new Hong Kong security law mean for the future of Chinese-Australian relations?
3. What role will QAnon play in the future of American political discourse?
4. Will the continued closure of North American borders hurt continental diplomacy?

SOLVENCY

1. What steps should US policymakers take to insure that an eventual COVID-19 vaccine is accessible to all?
2. How can the world reduce Palestinian-Israeli tensions amid annexation of the West Bank?
3. How can the WHO guarantee its survival even in the absence of US support?
4. What approach should the United States take for future peace talks with North Korea?

SOLVENCY QUESTIONS

1.