

Cross Examination Ideas

Remember that CX usually has three purposes: to CLARIFY, to get your opponent to ADMIT FLAWS in his/her reasoning, contentions, evidence, etc. and/or to SET UP YOUR OWN ARGUMENTS.

TO CLARIFY

1. What was your first contention?
2. What was your second contention?
3. What was your third contention?
4. Could you please give me the definition of _____?
5. Did all of your definitions come from the same source? What was that source?
6. Again, what is your value?
7. What is your criterion?
8. How does your criterion serve as a standard? (or achieve your value?)
9. Please explain how the value of _____ fits within the framework of your arguments.

TO ADMIT FLAWS (these are called "leading questions"):

1. Wouldn't you agree that _____
2. Isn't it true that _____
3. Don't you tell us in your first contention that _____? So, how is it possible _____
4. You tell us that _____, but isn't it more reasonable that _____
5. If we accept your definition of _____, but wouldn't it make more sense to _____
6. Read the resolution aloud to the judges, please. Can you tell me which of your contentions directly addresses the value the wording asks us to argue?

TO SET UP YOUR OWN ARGUMENTS

1. Your value is _____. Right? So, isn't my value of _____ probably going to subsume yours?
2. You tell us in your first contention that _____; however, my (1st, 2nd, 3rd) contention claims that _____. There's no way to explain that contradiction, is there?