In debate both sides have to create arguments to defend either side of the case.

An argument has four parts:

**Label** (catchy reference)  
**Explain** (bulk of an argument showing the logic connections)  
**Examples/Evidence** (statistics, quotes, studies, stories etc)  
**Tie back** (to the case line - why this debate is important and how this argument supports it)

Check your arguments against the criteria

- Your arguments support the caseline statement (thesis)  
- Your arguments do not contradict the given assumptions  
- Your arguments prove the give assumptions.

**Example argument**

Ladies and gentlemen, regardless what the Affirmative side tells you, the death penalty does NOT stop criminals. It is not an effective deterrent because these criminals are too hardened to care.

Allow me to explain. The people that the affirmative is targeting, the murderers, will not be deterred. To them, being put to death is an easy way out. They have already forfeited their lives, they have no reason to live.

Taken from the Nationwide murder rates in the United States, the average murder rate for a state that does NOT have the death penalty is 4.2 while the murder rate for the states that DO have the death penalty is 5.9. This is significantly higher and proves that the death penalty is NOT an effective deterrent.

This is evidence ladies and gentlemen. This proves the Negative caseline that The Death Penalty does nothing to stop murders and that the money wasted on the death penalty should be put to better use within the society.