



Comparing Arguments



Intro

- This is a PowerPoint derived from the DebateDrills Academy course “Intro to Cost-Benefit Analysis.”
- To see more (including a video), check it out [here](#).



Imagine...

- Debater A makes an argument and Debater B makes an argument - how do we resolve this?
- Topic: Where to eat?
 - A: Hot pot - taste
 - B: McDonalds - cost
 - How do we decide this?



Solution

- Argument comparison!
- Definition - a way of evaluating two arguments through some metric.
- “Weighing” “Comparison” “Cost Benefit Analysis”



What is Comparing?

- This is when you explain why something is more important than something else!
- Hot Pot vs. McDonalds
 - Taste > Cost
 - Cost > Taste



Why Compare?

- No way to resolve debates otherwise.
- It can make your job easier - you can win fewer arguments.



How to Compare?

- We can “weigh” or “compare” using a number of metrics -
 - How important the argument is
 - How likely it is
 - How quickly it happens



Weighing Metrics

- Magnitude/Size
- Probability/Likelihood
- Timeframe/Speed



Magnitude

- How big is our argument?
- “Cost outweighs taste on magnitude - if we spend a ton of money, we’ll be out of money and will lose our house”



Probability

- How likely is our argument?
- “Addiction outweighs disinformation on probability - it’s more likely someone gets hooked on Instagram than spreading lies online”



Timeframe

- How quickly it happens
- “Taste outweighs cost on timeframe - we taste it immediately!”

Thank you for watching!