



## INTRO TO DEBATE AND THE ART OF AFFIRMATIVE CASE CONSTRUCTION

### PART 1: DEBATE BASICS

In debate, there is a resolution.

This is the statement you debate.

There is an affirmative team and a Negative team.

The Affirmative team supports the resolution.

The negative team opposes the opposes.

### PART 2: Affirmative Case Construction

The Affirmative case has six planks:

1. Definitions
2. Criteria
3. Harms
4. Plan
5. Solvency
6. Advantages

#### OBSERVATION I: Definitions

1. Use a dictionary.
2. Give an accurate definition.
3. Define terms together ("hot dog" "Hot Pocket")
4. Define all words that seem unclear.

#### OBSERVATION II: Criteria

Criteria tells the judge how to decide who wins.

Examples of criteria are:

1. net benefits
2. stock issues

### OBSERVATION III: Harms

A harm is a problem in the status quo

↑ the way things are now.

Harms should be:

1. significant
2. inherent.

"if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

### OBSERVATION IV: Plan

The plan is your solution to the harms.

1. Agent: who passes the plan
2. Mandates: the steps you take (action)
3. Enforcement: whos going to make sure the plan works
4. Funding: money.

### OBSERVATION V: Solvency

Solvency shows each harm is solved, using evidence.

### OBSERVATION VI: Advantages

Advantages are positive consequences of enacting your plan.

One last thought: no case is perfect.

# The Arguments of the Negative

In the winter, my appendages get very, very cold. You know how people say, "Agh! My toes/fingers/ears/nose/lips feel like ice?" Well, guess what! It's been proven, conclusively, that during those cold winter months, MY fingers really DO turn to ice! It was cool, until my brother cut them off and put them in his Coke. Then they got all sticky.

The Ultimate Goal of the Negative Team: Convince the judge that we do not want to adopt the resolution!

## REFUTATIONS OF THE STOCK ISSUES (Testing the Case)

### 1. TOPICALITY

A. Non-topical. The case does not fulfill the resolution - it is non-topical.

Other notes on T: Topicality must be brought up in the first Negative Constructive.

### 2. SIGNIFICANCE

A. No problem exists.

B. The problem is very small.

### 3. INHERENCY

A. The problem is solved.

B. The problem is being solved.

### 4. SOLVENCY

A. Rebuttal of experts.

B. Rebuttal of pilot projects

C. Rebuttal of workability.

DISADVANTAGES - Demonstrates that the resolution or the case makes the world

worse!