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**.

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: **who 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

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**!