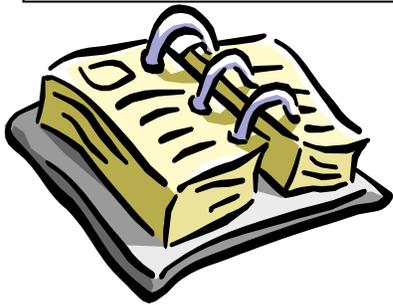


Debate: What is it?

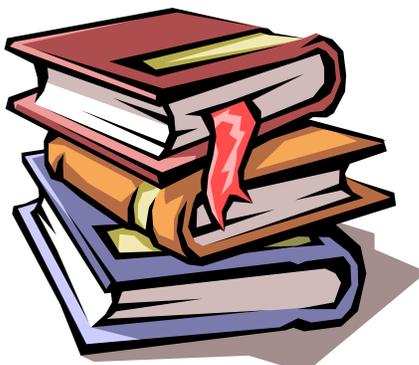
Policy debate is an activity of argumentation that focuses on delivery, research, and critical thinking. It is a competitive activity, which means that two people will be paired against an opposing team in each debate round.



Each year, there are several tournaments. They occur on the weekends, usually starting Friday night and ending Sunday evening.

At the beginning of each year, the debate community votes on one topic, which is debated the entire academic year. This year, the topic is whether the United States Federal Government should...

**SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASE
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY INCENTIVES IN
THE UNITED STATES**



"How will I know what to say?"
The IMPACT Coalition provides beginning debaters with arguments and evidence to support the topic. After that, individuals do research by reading books, searching the internet, and reading newspapers to find more information about the topic.

Debate: Speech Roles and Times

there are four debaters in each round, plus a judge. each debater speaks twice, one constructive (8 minutes) and one rebuttal (5 minutes). in between each speech, there is a question-answer session called cross-examination.

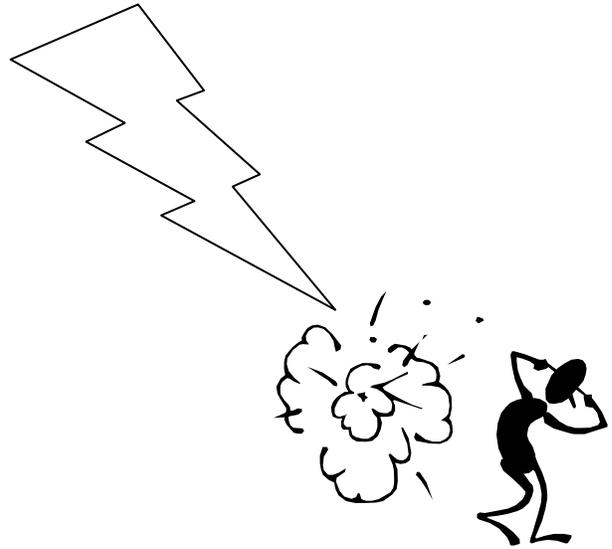
There are two sides—affirmative (who proposes the idea) and negative (who refutes the idea). Debaters are both affirmative and negative at every tournament. They debate with partners from their own schools and are designated either the 1st or 2nd speaker.

THE SPEECH TIMES AND ORDER.

1st affirmative constructive (1ac), 8 minutes
cross-ex by the 2nd negative (2n), 3 minutes
1st negative constructive (1nc), 8 minutes
cross-ex by the 1st affirmative (1a), 3 minutes
2nd affirmative constructive (2ac), 8 minutes
cross-ex by the 1st negative (1n), 3 minutes
2nd negative constructive (2nc), 8 minutes
cross-ex by the 2nd affirmative (2a), 3 minutes
1st negative rebuttal (1nr), 5 minutes
1st affirmative rebuttal (1ar), 5 minutes
2nd negative rebuttal (2nr), 5 minutes
2nd affirmative rebuttal (2ar), 5 minutes

THE STOCK ISSUES

Inherency is the stock issue that describes what's happening now. This usually includes an analysis of what laws exist that prevent a plan from passing in the status quo, and what attitudes perpetuate the harms (for example, The United States currently is not supporting X UN Peacekeeping Operation).



For example. A man is standing outside with his friends. It is raining. It is thundering. It is also lightning, once in awhile. He does not go inside the house that is nearby because he likes playing in the rain.

“Harms” is the stock issue that describes the Bad Stuff that will occur or is occurring. For example, one man who is standing outside in the rain gets hit by lightning and dies. This happens because he decided not to go inside. It is likely that his friends will also get hit by lightning if they stay outside.



Hey I've got a bright idea. **The Plan is a proposal for how to improve the current situation.** It is too late to save the dead man, but not too late to save the others. The friends, the plan argues, should run to the house and go inside to get out of the rain.



Solvency is the stock issue that proves that plan will be effective: If the friends are inside, they will not get hit by lightning (and even if they did, the house would not burn because it is made of brick). Thus, if the plan, which has the friends go inside the house, is implemented, they will be safe.

Disadvantages: The Basics

What are they and how do I argue them?

A Disadvantage is a negative argument that maintains that if the affirmative plan is passed, it will have BAD, disastrous effects.

There are a few different technical terms we must discuss.

UBLI- Pronounced like UGLY- is the acronym of the day

In order for the negative team to win a debate, they must win an *offensive* reason why the affirmative's idea is bad- in other words they have to prove not only that the proposal wouldn't work, but that it would cause more harm than good! In other words, they must prove there is a disadvantage to plan.

**U is for UNIQUENESS
B is for BRINK
L is for LINK
and
I is for IMPACT**

Let's take an example. International Relations provide fertile ground for debate theory discussions. Let's discuss a disadvantage that is called US-Sino relations.



THE UNIQUENESS OF THE DISADVANTAGE IS VERY SIMILAR TO INHERENCY IN THAT IT DESCRIBES THE STATUS QUO: IT'S PURPOSE IS TO PROVE THAT ABSENT PLAN ACTION, THE BAD EFFECT DESCRIBED BY THE DISADVANTAGE (IN THE CASE OF US - SINO RELATIONS THE BAD EFFECT IS A WAR BETWEEN THE US AND CHINA) WOULD NOT BE LIKELY. THUS, THE NEGATIVE WOULD ARGUE THAT US-SINO (CHINA) RELATIONS ARE HEALTHY: WE OFTEN HAVE DIPLOMATIC SUMMITS, CHINA IS NOT YET OBJECTING TO OUR HANDLING OF THE WAR, AND THEY ARE LIKELY TO SEEK COOPERATION WITH THE US IN THE FUTURE. THUS THE PLAN, WHICH DISRUPTS THESE RELATIONS, WOULD BE *UNIQUE* IN ITS EFFECTS.

The **IMPACT** describes what the bad effect of plan would be. In this case, the impact is a US-Sino war. Relations would be destroyed to the point of inciting a Chinese backlash, which could take a number of forms- first strike, creating coalitions with US enemies (Iraq, Afghanistan), provoking US's ally, Taiwan. How would a US-Sino war escalate? Could it involve ground troops? Could it pull in other US allies and enemies? Could it directly affect US citizens? Why is it worse than the terrorist attacks that the affirmative might prevent?



The **BRINK** argues that trouble could be close to happening. It is evident that China is already a bit angry with the US, and thus will likely backlash against plan. This section would encompass an answer to arguments like war will never happen because US-Sino relations are resilient: relations won't bounce back this time.

THE LINK IS THE REASON WHY THE AFFIRMATIVE PLAN WOULD CAUSE BAD THINGS. WHAT IS IT ABOUT THE AFF'S PROPOSAL THAT WOULD ALTER US-SINO RELATIONS? WELL, IF THE US WAS SENT TROOPS TO ASIA TO SUPPORT A PEACEKEEPING OPERATION, CHINA, WOULD POSSIBLY BE A BIT TICKED OFF BECAUSE THE US WAS ENCREACHING UPON THEIR TERRITORY.