



9.2 Affirmative and Stock Issues Presentation

This activity develops critical thinking skills while increasing understanding of the affirmative case and the stock issues. This activity is a homework assignment in which students build a structured case idea from a policy resolution. It encourages students to use problem-solving skills in a creative and rigorous project. This activity should be used to follow up on an introductory lesson on Stock Issues and Affirmative Case structure.

Time Allotment

After homework assignment, about 10-15 minutes

Objectives

By the end of this activity, students will:

- begin to understand how Stock Issues apply to a range of different potential affirmative cases.
- have experience with outlining their own affirmative case.
- be introduced to articulating their ideas in structured arguments.

Method

Provide students with a resolution. Or, you could let them select a preferred resolution from a list of options. Once each student has a resolution, as homework assign each one to write the following:

- An outline of an idea for an affirmative case supporting that resolution (highlighting a specific problem that must be solved.)
- A plan that specifies the action of that case (highlighting the barriers to action in the status quo.)
- An advantage that specifies the benefit of that policy action (highlighting, with several analytical points of proof, how the action will solve the problem).

In the next class, all students will hand in their assignment. Select several students to present their arguments to the class in the form of one to three-minute speeches. These presentations should highlight the stock issues (Inherency, Solvency, Harms, etc.).

You can use these speeches to lead into a large group discussion of an issue raised by a particular case. You may also want to design follow-up activities, based on the case outlines students submit. For instance, if a student turns in an outline of a case on Single Payer Health Care Policy, you may want to assign follow up reading, research, or even a paper project related to that student's idea for a case.