



9.1 Identifying Stock Issues

This activity introduces the concept of Stock Issues in an affirmative case. This activity is great for translating debate jargon into meaningful language and it introduces students to the concept and language of stock issues.

Time Allotment

30-40 minutes

Objectives

By the end of this activity, students will:

- be introduced to argument structure and logic.
- be introduced to logical burdens in advocacy.

Method

Tell students to brainstorm societal problems to be solved. For instance, they may want to talk about unemployment, low wages, bad schools, pollution, police brutality, or homelessness. Write their list of problems on the board.

Alternatively, you may want to start using a list of possible policy resolutions. A list is provided on the next page.

Arrange students in small groups. Assign a "case" from the list on the board to each small group. For each of the assigned cases, write the following phrases on the board:

1. What is the problem and why does it matter? [Significant Harms]
2. Why hasn't the problem been solved already? [Inherency]
3. What can we do to solve the problem? Why will that work? [Solvency.]

NOTE: Do not write the bracketed material on the board until groups have presented their answers to these questions.

Have each group answer these questions for their "case" and present them to the class. Finally, next to the questions on the board write the debate term that describes the answers they came up with. Hold a discussion about the meaning of each debate term.

(NOTE: This activity does not include the topicality stock issue. However, if you use the list of resolutions, topicality can be easily incorporated into the activity.)



Resolution #1: Resolved: That animal testing should be abolished.

Resolution #2: Resolved: That the U.S. should immediately disarm all of its nuclear weapons.

Resolution #3: Resolved: That a constitutional amendment outlawing gay marriages should be enacted.

Resolution #4: Resolved: That the federal government should produce and distribute condoms free of charge.

Resolution #5: Resolved: That medicinal marijuana should be decriminalized nationwide.

Resolution #6: Resolved: That the U.S. should implement a one-payer medical system.

Resolution #7: Resolved: That all public cigarette smoking should be banned

Resolution #8: Resolved: That the FCC should establish more aggressive standards and enforcement measures for controlling sex and violence on television.

Resolution #9: Resolved: That assisted suicides and euthanasia should be legalized.

Resolution #10: Resolved: That undocumented immigrants should be allowed to obtain driver's licences.