



# Varsity LD: It's All About Clash.

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm | TUESDAY, June 26

*Session will discuss on how to refute arguments more effectively.*

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## Attention All Attendees:

Thank you for registering your attendance for **EACH SESSION:**

<http://www.uiltexas.org/academics/capital-conference/online>



**Electronic handouts** are available there too.

# WHAT IS CLASH?

Opposing arguments on key issues, refutation, heart of debate



*Debates without clash are agreements*

# OVERVIEW

To be able to respond to your opponent's argument you must:

- **Understand the argument**
- Flow
- Read the literature
- Write blocks



# SAMPLE BLOCKS

## **PRAGMATISM:**

### **1. There is no single definition of pragmatism:**

H.S. Thayer explains,

“There is, however, a more serious and persistent problem of interpretation entrenched in the history of pragmatism. This is the problem of determining with some precision what pragmatism means or stands for as a philosophical doctrine. Pragmatism by virtue is an evolving philosophical movement.”

Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Volume 6, 1967, P.G 431

Thus you shouldn't accept pragmatism, because there really is no way to determine whether something is pragmatic or not.

### **2. Pragmatism begs the question:**

Pragmatism doesn't answer what we ought to do; only what we can do to be pragmatic.

Thus arguing we should do something because it is pragmatic does not determine if we ought to do something. There are numerous acts that could be labeled pragmatic that we ought not to do. For example it could be pragmatic to kick out all students that fail the TAKS test, but we ought not to do it.

### **3. Pragmatism is not a functioning standard:**

# SAMPLE BLOCKS

## Salado Debate: Affirmative Blocks

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### AT: Value globalization and protection equally

Merriam Webster defines “valued above” determining a relative worth, importance in terms of a higher rank. (s.d.)

This means both the affirmative and negative must rank the object of evaluations.

Prefer this interpretation because:

1. Text of the resolution. The intent of the resolution is to value one object of evaluation over the other. The framers clearly wanted debaters to prioritize one over the other by placing the words “valued above” in the text of the resolution, otherwise the words become meaningless in the resolution.
2. Fairness. The affirmative has the burden to prove the resolution true, the negative should have the reciprocal obligation to prove the resolution false.
3. Negative Burden. The negative clearly now has the burden to prove they can be valued the same. I will contend globalization trades-off with protectionism. There can't be an advocacy of both worlds. One has to be valued over the other one.

Dr. Paweł Bożyk, Warsaw School of Economics. Globalization and the Transformation of Foreign Economic Policy. N.p.: Ashgate Publishing Group, 2006. Pgs 24-25.  
Print. [https://books.google.com/books?id=KvW85lp99BwC&pg=PA258&lpg=PA258&dq=Globalization+is+prioritized+over+Protectionism&source=bl&ots=0IH2XyA0Tc&sig=PzCiv04p8JvNlFw7-ZK8eT1nRA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewij662s3PHRAHUJQ\\_WMKHYhICDwQ6AEISDAI#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=KvW85lp99BwC&pg=PA258&lpg=PA258&dq=Globalization+is+prioritized+over+Protectionism&source=bl&ots=0IH2XyA0Tc&sig=PzCiv04p8JvNlFw7-ZK8eT1nRA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewij662s3PHRAHUJQ_WMKHYhICDwQ6AEISDAI#v=onepage&q&f=false)

In summary, the policy of economic protectionism can be viewed in two ways, on the one hand as an inevitable evil and, on the other, as the best solution admissible temporarily exclusively to adapt the imperfections of existing conditions, unadjusted to the requirements of the free market and free trade mechanism. In this case, protectionist policy is applied only to ensure a possibly fastest adjustment of the existing conditions to the requirements of the free market and free trade. On the other hand, a protectionist policy can be treated as a permanent element of adjusting imperfections of the contemporary market, which is far from free market and free trade requirements. It is the stronger who wins in this market and, hence, this market abounds in such phenomena as concentration of capital, absorption of smaller enterprises by larger ones, and a drive towards monopolization of production. The state plays an important part in this process, supporting enterprises that have the opportunity to occupy a dominant position, or protecting smaller enterprises from being absorbed by the large ones. Current practice is influenced by both above doctrines, one of them taking a dominant position while the other moving to the background, depending on the period. Till 1980 the doctrine prevailing in economic policy gave priority to protectionism. since 1980 free trade policy has moved to the

# SAMPLE BLOCKS

## Salado Debate: Negative Blocks

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AT: Globalization reduces conflict, reduces chance of war

1. **War can be justified. War may be necessary to stop genocide or other forms of aggression. Sometimes the greater evil is not fighting a war**
2. This argument is absurd. Just because you have trade restrictions doesn't mean you can't have diplomatic relations with other nations. Diplomacy and trade restrictions can co-exist.
3. Trade war rhetoric is all hyperbole. The US has implemented trade restrictions on China for years and there's always exaggerated talk of "protectionist trade wars". Protectionist trade policies rarely escalate to war; there are other underlying issues that escalate tensions.
4. **Turn: Globalization leads to inequality and thus war.**

**Steven Staples explains:**

(Steven Staples, Social Justice Magazine, Vol 27, "The Relationship between Globalization and Militarism", 2000, [http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Globalization/Globalization\\_Militarism.html](http://www.thirdworldtraveler.com/Globalization/Globalization_Militarism.html))

**Globalization Promotes Inequality, Unrest, and Conflict. Economic inequality is growing; more conflict and civil wars are emerging. It is important to see a connection between these two situations. Proponents of global economic integration argue that globalization promotes peace and economic development of the Third World.** They assert that "all boats rise with the tide" when investors and corporations make higher profits. **However, there is precious little evidence that this is true and substantial evidence of the opposite. The United Nation's Human Development Report** (U.N. Development Programme, 1999:3) **noted that globalization is creating new threats to human security. Economic inequality between Northern and Southern nations has worsened, not improved. There are more wars being fought today-mostly in the Third World-than there were during the Cold War. Most are not wars between countries, but are civil wars where the majority of deaths are civilians** not soldiers.

# LINKS IN A CHAIN

- Resolution
- Value
- Criteria
- Contention/Offense

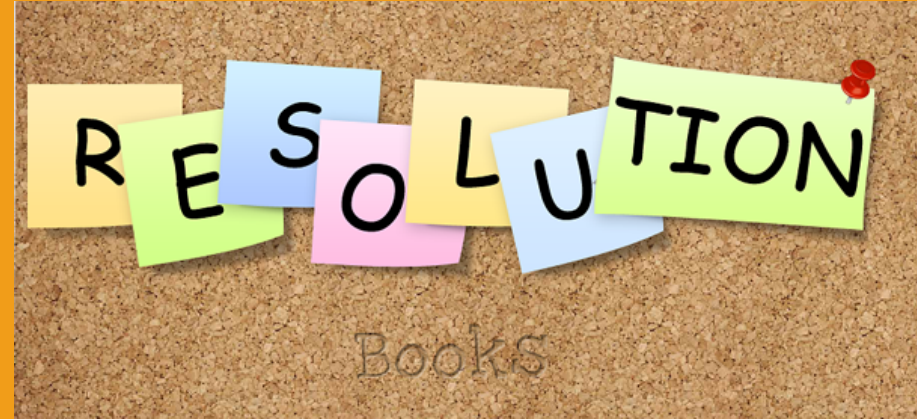


*Just because your value is more important, you do not win*



# PARTS OF RESOLUTION

- Evaluative Term
- Object of Evaluation



*Starting point of the debate*

Resolved: The death penalty is just.

Resolved: The United States federal government has a moral obligation to provide universal health care for its citizens.

# PARTS OF AN ARGUMENT

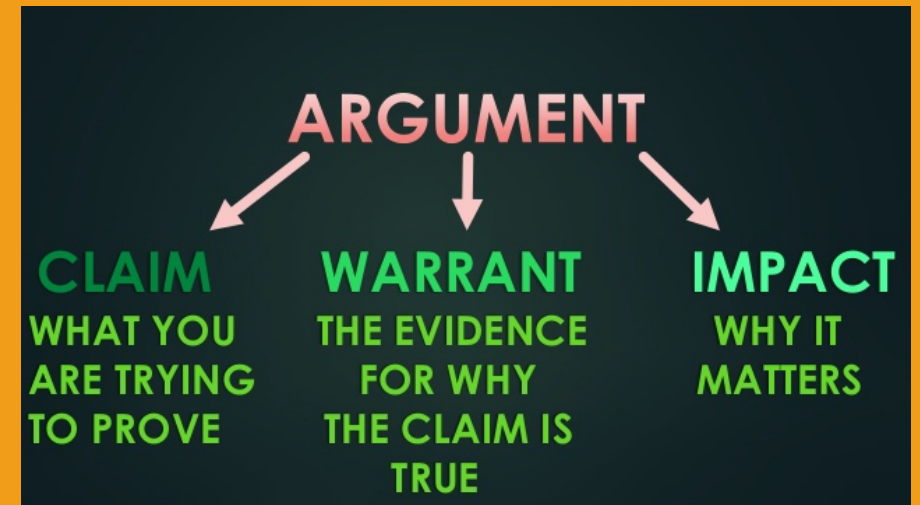
- Claim – Conclusion, Truth Statement

- Warrant – Premise, Why

*Analytical, Empirical, Evidentiary*

- Impact – Implication, Importance

*Impacts should link to a standard/criteria*



# BREADTH AND DEPTH

- Breadth: Have multiple warrants
- Depth: Having warrants for your warrants

*Warrants are infinitely regressive*

Claim: Obama is good

Warrant: B/C he's socialist

= Controversial. Not everyone thinks socialism is good. Should take the argument a little further.

Warrant: B/c he's socialist.

Warrant: socialism is good because it treats all people equally.

This argument is less controversial. Not as many people think equality is bad.



*breadth*  
*depth*

# CUE WORDS

## Warrants:

- “This is true because...” “The warrant is...”
- Words like because, since, insofar, given that, etc.

## Impacts:

- “This means...” “The impact is...” “The implication is...” “This is bad because...”
- Words like therefore, thus, the result is, hence, consequently, etc.



# FUNCTION OF ARGUMENTS

- Topicality

Interpretation of the Resolution

- Framework

Value/Criteria = Resolution

- Contentions

OE = X

X = Criteria



FUNCTION

# OFFENSE

Why I win

- ~Case Impact
- ~Case Turn

*You can't win if you don't score!*



# DEFENSE

Why I don't lose

- ~No link
- ~No Warrant
- ~Biased source

# FRAMEWORK

The lens the judge looks through to evaluate a debate round and determine a winner

- The value and criteria
- Your “world”
- V/C = terminal impacts
- Philosophy
- Generally, you will not be discussing the object of evaluation

**framework**

# TOPICALITY

## Non-Resolutional

SMU - “death penalty”  
Last year – “value above”  
Fall Topic – Loaded

*USFG*  
*moral obligation*  
*provide*  
*universal health care*  
*citizens*

## Parts

- Interpretation
- Violations
- Standards/Reasons to prefer your Interp
- Voters





# AT: VALUE

- No Link to Resolution
- Not Justified
- Value Objection- harmful effect of the value
- *Even if you are accepting the value, I achieve it better...*



# AT: VALUE



- Vague/Ambiguous
- My value is more important
- My value is pre-requisite, comes first
- My value includes it, succumbs their value
- Not a value, only a mechanism to gain some good - i.e. democracy
- Agent's obligation

# AT: CRITERIA

- No link to value, does not achieve it
- Not justified
- Criterion Objection- a harmful effect of the criterion
- Even if you are accepting the criterion, I achieve it better...

## JUDGING CRITERIA



# AT: CRITERIA

- Begs
- No Brightline, cant weigh impacts
- Circular to the Value
- Insufficient
- Ambiguous, Vague
- Not a Criterion- i.e. Cost Benefit Analysis



# AT: CONTENTIONS

1. No link to criteria
2. My case answers the argument
3. Not true  
~Empirically Deny
4. Turn – Prove the opposite is true



# AT: CONTENTIONS

1. Bad author/out of date
2. No warrant. Why?
3. So what! No impact given/Numbers
4. Alternate causality
5. Not conclusive (may/could)
6. Brink/ Threshold
7. Non-unique
8. Link / Internal link
9. Alternative / CP
10. K
11. DA
12. *Even if true, I outweigh*



Observation Aff not topical

Interpretation

Violation

Reasons to prefer Interp

Voter

Value

1. No Link to Resolution
2. Not Justified
3. Value Objection- harmful effect of the value
4. Even if you are accepting the value, I achieve it better...

Criteria

1. No link to value, does not achieve it
2. Not justified
3. Criterion Objection- a harmful effect of the criterion
4. Even if you are accepting the criterion, I achieve it better...

Contention 1

1. No link to criteria
2. My case answers the argument
3. Not true  
~Empirically Deny
4. Turn – Prove the opposite is true

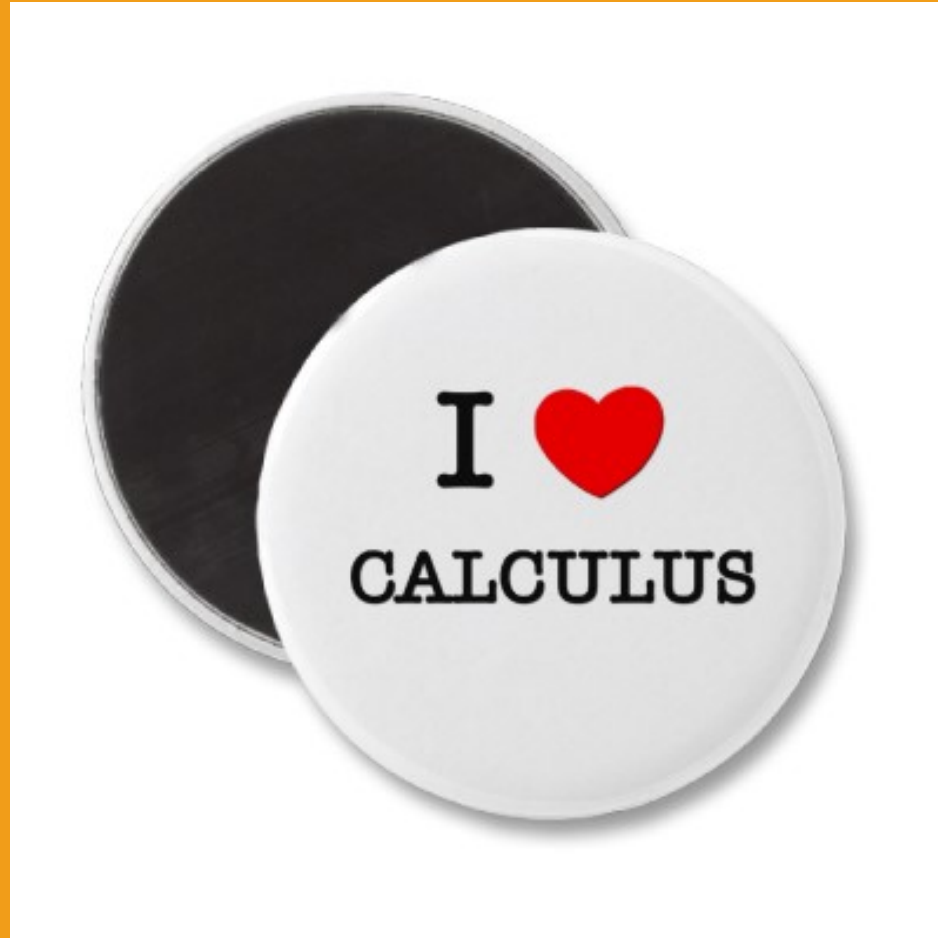
Contention 2

1. No link to criteria
2. My case answers the argument
3. Not true  
~Empirically Deny
4. Turn – Prove the opposite is true



# IMPACT CALCULUS

- Probability
- Magnitude
- Timeframe
  
- Duration
- Reversibility





# FALLACIES



- Ad hominem - attacking the arguer instead of the argument
- Glittering generality - emotionally appealing phrase so closely associated with highly valued concepts and beliefs that it carries conviction without supporting information or reason.
- Slippery slope - asserting that a relatively small first step inevitably leads to a chain of related events culminating in some significant impact/event that should not happen
- Is-ought fallacy - assumption is made that because things are a certain way, they should be that way.
- Either-or – AKA all-or-nothing fallacy, false dichotomy. Present a false dilemma.

# FALLACIES



- Appeal to authority – using an expert of dubious credentials or using only one opinion to sell a product or idea.
- Appeal to popularity – AKA ad populum (Latin for "argument to the people") argument that concludes that a proposition is true because many or most people believe it
- Correlation, not causation – AKA post hoc ergo propter hoc – a faulty assumption that because there is a correlation between two variables that one caused the other
- Red herring -argument given in response to another argument, which is irrelevant and draws attention away from the subject of argument.
- Straw man - an argument based on misrepresentation of an opponent's position

# STEPS TO REFUTATION

Step 1: Understand the argument

Step 2: Find the weakness

Step 3: Build *arguments* against the argument.

Step 4: Execute the refutation



# REFUTATION EXECUTION

- Name      *Signpost*  
Go to... They say....
- Explain      *Claim*  
I disagree... I have 3 responses...
- Support      *Warrant*  
This true because... Because... There two warrants...
- Conclude      *Impact*  
The implication is... Therefore...The impact is two fold...



- **Conference Evaluation Survey:** Remind attendees to complete the **online evaluation survey**, as their feedback is very important. The survey web address is in the program and will be emailed to attendees following the conference.

# QUESTIONS

