CX DEBATE: THEORY MAKING RULES

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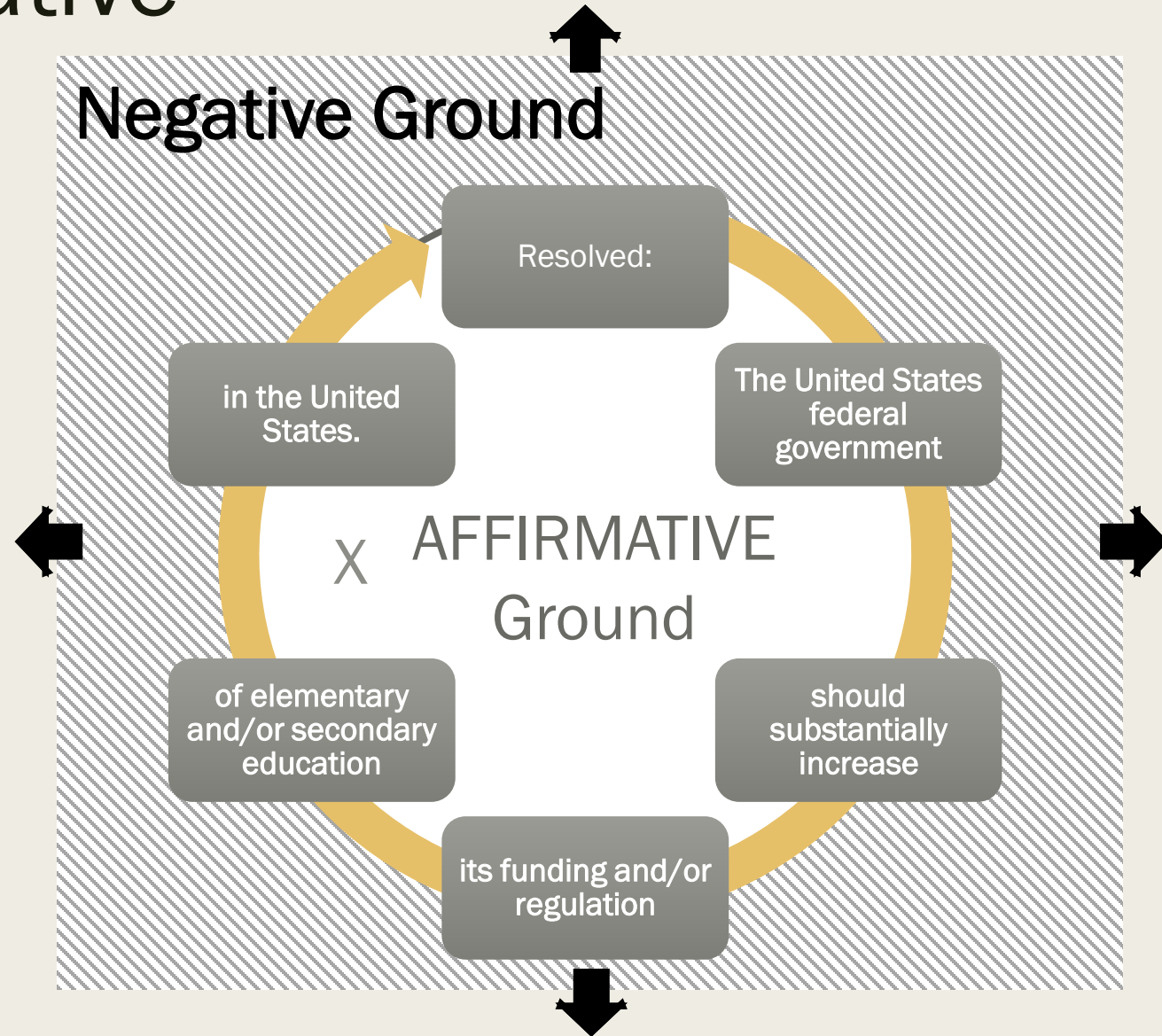Canyon High School

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The game

■ "At the beginning, though, it is important to understand that, whatever else debate is, it is a game. It has teams, points, winners, losers, tournaments, and trophies. Like many games, it is not always fair (even though we try hard to make it fair). Most importantly, debate is supposed to be fun." *- Dr. Joe Bellon, Director of Debate Georgia State University 2006*

■ Just like any game, there are rules and a basic structure to learn and understand.

Benefits of Debating Theory

■ Even at a very basic level, well-executed theory debate can shift the focus of the round in your favor.

■ Provides opportunity to define the rules of the game and set the boundaries

■ Gives the option to establish control over debate and set the focus of the round

■ Can create a different set of rules in each round

■ Method to articulate the reason/s something is bad for debate rather than just tagging it 'bad'

■ Develops our critical thinking skills

■ As we better understand theory, we can teach our younger teammates and become better debaters in the process.

Plan based Affirmative

- Affirmatives only have to defend the plan

- Neg has much bigger ground

- Aff gets to focus the round X

- In a framework debate, the Aff can use theory to argue their original position

Negative Ground

Resolved:

The United States federal government

should substantially increase

its funding and/or regulation

of elementary and/or secondary education

in the United States.

X AFFIRMATIVE Ground

Argument Basics

Status Quo & Presumption

- Status quo is presumed to be sufficient 'as is'

- Affirmative responsibility: "Burden of proof" lies with the Affirmative. They must show why status quo policies are insufficient to solve a particular harm, thus overcoming presumption.

- Negative responsibility: Clash with affirmative propositions, showing why the status quo is preferable to change (doing so meets the negative "burden of rejoinder")Presumption lies with the negative.
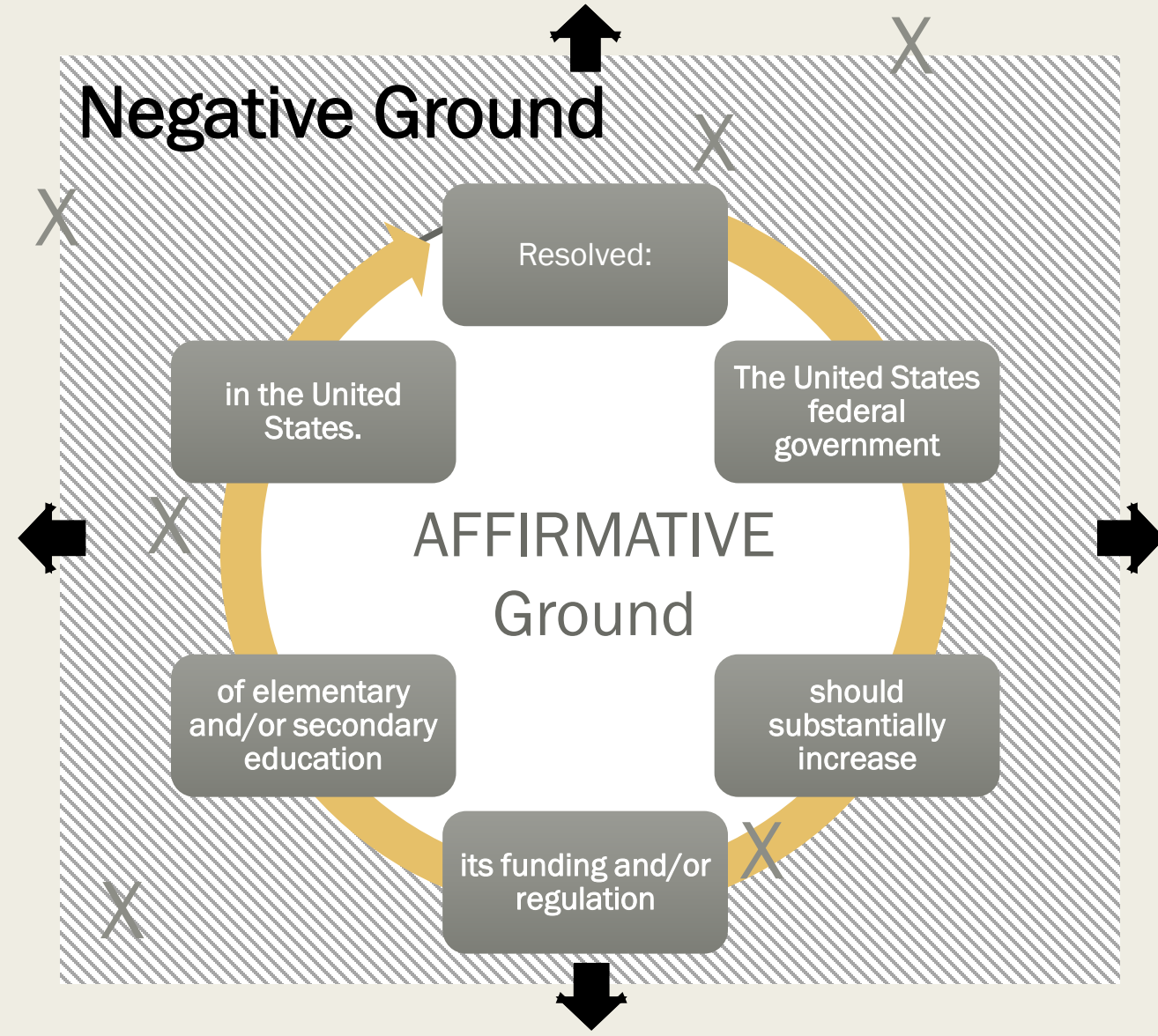
Affirmative :
Prima Facie Burdens

- **Harms**

- **Inherency**
  - *Structural, Attitudinal, Gap, or Existential*
  - *What is the danger of arguing Aff plan will happen in SQ? No barrier exists?*

- **Solvency**
  - *Solvency advocacy/Plan text*

- **Topicality**
  - *Bidirectional Topic: "funding and/or regulation"*

- Rather than proving Stock Issues are absolute, Aff can claim incremental improvement over SQ or portion of stock issue- weighing the round is important!

- Neg must use Offense/Defense approach- only mitigating Aff case isn't enough to win. Neg must have something to weigh against the Aff solvency claims.

Negative Positions (On Case)

Topicality: Negative will identify how the Affirmative has violated one or more terms in the resolution and is beyond their territory (ground)

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its funding and/or regulation of elementary and/or secondary education in the United States.

Negative Ground

AFFIRMATIVE Ground

Resolved:

The United States federal government

should substantially increase

its funding and/or regulation

of elementary and/or secondary education

in the United States.

Topicality

- A priori: First Priority
- Structure includes:
  1. *Definition: present a definition of a term in the resolution*
  2. *Violation: Identifies how the Aff violates the term according to Neg definition*
  3. *Standards: Identifies the importance of the issue in the round: Why should we care about staying within the topic?*
  4. *Voter: Identifies the argument as an issue the judge should vote on (against the Aff) in this round.*
- Extra Topical
- Effects Topical
- RVI

Plan Text

- A plan is a written text that demonstrates a step-by-step explanation of how the affirmative will change the Status Quo to achieve solvency for the Impacts they claim.

- Typically placed before solvency in the 1AC.

- "Plan Planks" can include:

    - *Mandates: are the basic provisions (action steps) of what the plan should accomplish.*

    - *Administration: planks define who is to operate the Affirmative plan.*

    - *Enforcement: provisions identify the penalty will be for violating any laws proposed by the Affirmative mandates; these planks may also specify what agencies will prosecute cases.*

    - *Funding: provision to pay for plan.*

    - *Spikes: plan components which serve to avoid a disadvantage that the rest of the plan would otherwise cause.*

    - *Intent: "The Affirmative team reserves the right to establish legislative intent based on speeches presented in this round."*

Affirmative Power

Fiat: Latin- 'let it be done'

- Affirmative has this implied power to put the plan into effect

- Q: What would happen in the round if the Aff didn't have this power?

Counterplans

- **Agent:** Different agent of action- States

- **Alternative Solvency/Advantage:** Some other action will S Aff harms

- **Delay:** Time frame issue

- **Conditioning:** Offer of action with condition included

- **Consult CP:** Working with another entity/gov't

- **Offsets:** Take $ from one program to give to another

- **PIC: Plan Inclusive Counterplan-** Most of the action of the Aff with an addition or omission

Counterplan Theory

Neg Fiat

- International Fiat- Unfair to Aff
- 50 State Fiat- Essentially federal action
- Object Fiat- Individual vs. institution

Status of Counterplan

- Unconditional

- Conditional

- Dispositional

Abusive Perms

- Severance

- Timeframe

- Intrinsic

  - *Ultimately, Aff cannot change plan in any way to escape the competitiveness of a CP*

No plan text/ Framework/ Critical Aff

- ■ Essentially non-Topical

- ■ "Resolved" Requires action that addresses problem of resolution

- ■ Argument impact: Fairness / Education

- ■ Possible standards:
  - – *Predictability*
  - – *Fairness*
  - – *Ground*
  - – *Education*
  - – *Utopian Thinking*
  - – *Switch Side Debate*

- ■ Key is who accesses the opponents arguments

Helpful Resources

CX Tools & Resources

- https://goo.gl/z8owYY