
GETTING STARTED IN CROSS – EXAMINATION DEBATE

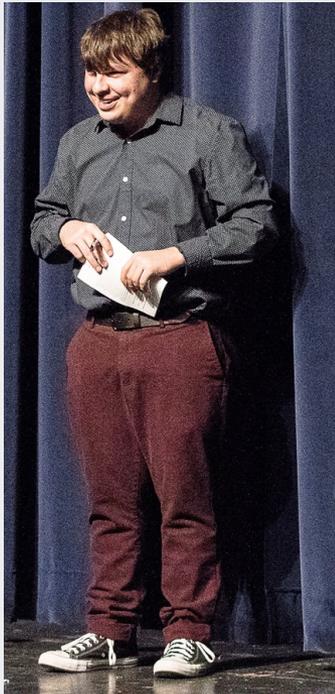
UT ARLINGTON SAC | MICHAEL ALLEN DONALDSON | COBA 245E

“IMMIGRANT SONG” – LED ZEPPELIN



UNIVERSITY OF
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WHO AM I?



Not a 12 year old, but just as immature as one.

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WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

- **What the UIL says:** “Policy debate is challenging but produces lifelong skills that will benefit you. Come listen to CX debate made user-friendly. Learn CX debate format, speaker responsibilities, and basic terminology.”
- **What Donaldson says:** We’re gonna’ take a *quick* look at the structure of CX debate: the arguments, the terms, and the structure. We’re going to move quickly, but deliberately. I’m not saying that this is going to be the greatest hour and a half of your life, but it probably will.

**LET'S BEGIN WITH A QUOTE FROM A
FAMOUS MODERN PHILOSOPHER:**

“Esketit.”

- Lil Pump

WHAT IS POLICY DEBATE?

- **Policy Debate** (also known as Cross-Examination Debate or CX Debate) is a partner debate event that tasks teams of 2 students with debating a year-long topic concerning a matter of policymaking or governmental affairs.
- Each year a **resolution** is selected by a national delegation of coaches and other authority figures. The 2018 – 2019 resolution is – *Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially reduce its restrictions on legal immigration to the United States.*
 - Fun fact: This topic was authored by Nicole Cornish of Athens ISD here in Texas! She's pretty awesome.

WHAT IS POLICY DEBATE?

- Each team in the debate has an assigned job that is (usually) assigned on the round posting.
- The affirmative team is tasked with proposing a plan that supports the thesis of the resolution.
 - Because the affirmative team has unlimited prep time, they must meet the burden of proof.
- The negative team is tasked with supporting the status quo. They do this by showing how the affirmative plan is unnecessary, inefficient, or how it would cause bad things to happen.
 - Because the negative team has limited prep time, they must meet the burden of clash.

WHAT IS POLICY DEBATE?

- The policy debate round has a set structure that evenly distributes speaking duties between all 4 debaters.
- Each team is allotted 8 minutes of prep time to use at any point throughout the round that they need it.
- 1st Affirmative Constructive – 8 minutes
- CX Period – 3 minutes
- 1st Negative Constructive – 8 minutes
- CX Period – 3 minutes
- 2nd Affirmative Constructive – 8 minutes
- CX Period – 3 minutes
- 2nd Negative Constructive – 8 minutes
- CX Period – 3 minutes
- 1st Negative Rebuttal – 5 minutes
- 1st Affirmative Rebuttal – 5 minutes
- 2nd Negative Rebuttal – 5 minutes
- 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal – 5 minutes

WHAT IS POLICY DEBATE?

- The most central pillars of the policy debate round are the stock issues. These issues should be established in the IAC and will be debated (in a number of ways) from that point on.
- The easiest way to remember the stock issues is through a handy acronym:
 - **S**ignificance
 - **H**arms
 - **I**nherency
 - **T**opicality
 - **S**olvency



WHAT IS SIGNIFICANCE?

- Well, it's kind of directly related to the harms, but more on that later.
- The affirmative's plan should be seeking to change the world of the status quo because there are problems in it. These problems should be SOOOOO BAD (or...significant, if you will), that the judge feels compelled to do something about it – IE: vote for the affirmative to implement their plan.



WHAT IS SIGNIFICANCE?

SCENARIO ONE:

You go to the store. On the way to the store, you are mugged by somebody claiming to be a member of Team Rocket. They take your wallet (and Pokémon). You are frazzled and sad, but ultimately unharmed.

SCENARIO TWO:

You go to the store. On the way to the store, an evil organization calling themselves Team Rocket drops a nuclear bomb on the grocery store. Everyone immediately dies and the entire town is destroyed.



WHAT ARE HARMS?

- Harms are bad things that exist in the status quo that have the potential to get worse without the implementation of the plan.
 - These can be presented in one of two ways:
 - A list of seemingly independent issues that are all caused or made worse by the absence of the plan can be thought of as harms claims.
 - A series of problems that build directly upon one another and are rooted to the absence of the plan can be thought of as a harms scenario.
- The IAC should only address harms that are completely fixable through the implementation of the plan. (More on this later)

WHAT ARE HARMS?

SCENARIO ONE:

Right now, China Spring HS has a strict dress code that regulates what students are allowed to wear. This causes a number of problems:

- Hurts student creativity
- Perpetuates sexist discipline policies
- Costs parents more money

SCENARIO TWO:

Right now, China Spring HS has a strict dress code that regulates what students are allowed to wear. This causes a major issue:

- Hurts students creativity
- Lack of creativity makes an unmotivated workforce
- Unmotivated workers aren't productive.
- Lack of productivity hurts the economy.

WHAT IS INHERENCY?

- The **inherency** of an affirmative case is the reason(s) that the plan has not been enacted already in the status quo. This comes in the form of an **inherent barrier**.
- There are two types of inherent barriers:
 - **Structural Inherent Barriers** are tangible things with discrete limits. They can be clearly identified and labeled.
 - Example: The plan might call to outlaw civilian ownership of ANY firearm, but the 2nd amendment provides a structural barrier that prevents this.
 - **Attitudinal Inherent Barriers** are abstract concepts that are less easy to define.
 - Example: The plan calls to outlaw the ownership of assault-style weapons, but the solidly Republican congress does not support the measure.

WHAT IS TOPICALITY?

- Topicality is a stock issue that determines whether or not the affirmative plan covers subject matter that is directly related to the resolution.
 - It is possible to be creative with your case/plan ideas, but there is a limit.
 - Since this year's resolution covers immigration, all of our cases should have something to do with that subject area. Spending all 8 minutes of the IAC talking about how stacked the Golden State Warriors roster is looking for this season wouldn't be topical.
- Topicality is also an argument that can be made by the negative team – this argument has its own structure, but it centers around the same concept.

WHAT IS SOLVENCY?

- Solvency is an explanation of how the plan solves for significant harms that they mentioned earlier.
 - The harms of a case can be thought of symptoms of a disease – the plan acts as medicine that fights the disease. The solvency is (for the sake of this analogy) the scientific-y explanation of how the medicine works.
 - It's important that your solvency can COMPLETELY solve for ALL of the harms that are laid out in the IAC. You aren't responsible for solving every issue in the world, just the ones that you bring up.
 - Who would buy a medicine if it only KIND OF fixed a problem?

WHAT IS “THE PLAN”?

- The affirmative team must keep the stock issues in mind as they develop a plan. This is the specific idea that they have for how to achieve solvency for the significant harms that they have mentioned.
 - The plan has to be able to overcome the inherent barrier (if it can't, why would we want it?).
 - The plan has to be able to solve for ALL of the harms.
 - The plan should have a certain degree of specificity to it:
 - Funding?
 - Time frame?
 - Agent of action/enforcement?

WHAT GOES IN THE IAC?

- The best IAC's are ones that flow like a story. There are a number of different ways to organize it, but here is one of the most simple ones:
 - **Inherency:**
 - Right now, books are being banned in public school districts at a higher rate than ever.
 - **Plan Text:**
 - Decrease local schools' powers in book bannings by expanding the authority granted to the USFG via *Island Trees School District vs Pico*.
 - **(Significant) Harms:**
 - Book bannings specifically harm minority groups
 - Banning books reinforces negative stereotypes
 - Banning books promotes cultural and ethnic conflict
 - **Solvency:**
 - *Island Trees School District vs Pico* set a precedent for combatting book bannings – reinforcing it solves.

COMMERCIAL BREAK:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YlejIA04sfA>

WHAT CAN THE NEG DO?

- As mentioned before, the negative team has the burden of clash. They have to prove that the affirmative's plan is unnecessary or inefficient or that it has the potential to cause bad things to happen. The negative team can do this in a number of ways:
 - Off Case Arguments
 - Topicalities
 - Disadvantages
 - Counterplans
 - Kritiks
 - On Case Arguments



WHAT CAN THE NEG DO?

- **Off Case Arguments** are attacks that deal with the affirmative's plan or advocacy in a broad way. They (usually) will attack an overall aspect or outcome of the plan as opposed to a hyper specific detail about it.
- **On Case Arguments** are attacks that deal with a specific element of the affirmative plan. These attacks can be used to point out a minor flaw of the plan/advocacy or a major issue caused by it, but it should be specific to THAT plan.
- When in doubt, go with **analytics** – you have to have clash!

WHAT IS A TOPICALITY?

- A **topicality** is a negative argument that accuses the affirmative plan of violating the linguistic restrictions of the resolution.
- Topicalities have a structure that consists of individual parts that flow in logical order:
 - **Definition/Interpretation** – the way the NEG defines the word.
 - **Violation** – how the AFF's interpretation is wrong.
 - **Standards** – reasons to prefer the NEG's interpretation.
 - **Voters** – reasons that the judge should vote on the topicality argument.

WHAT IS A TOPICALITY?

Definition:

Reduce means to eliminate completely. (Donaldson 2018)

Violation:

The affirmative team's plan only cuts the restriction by HALF, this maintains the other half of the policy.

Standards:

Prefer our definition because it uses an **EXPERT'S DEFINITION**. It also creates sets clear **LIMITS** between what is and is not topical in the round.

Voters:

Vote on topicality as a means to promote **EDUCATION** on the topic and as a way to ensure **FAIRNESS** in the round.

WHAT IS A DISADVANTAGE?

- A **disadvantage** is a negative argument that suggests that the affirmative plan will incite some sort of major impact of catastrophic proportions.
- Disadvantages have a structure that consists of individual parts that flow in logical order:
 - **Uniqueness** – what’s happening right now
 - **Link** – a broad connection of concepts
 - **Internal Link** – the specific way that the plan links
 - **Impact** – the big bad thing that happens.
 - There are two types of impacts – they have separate uses. **Terminal impacts** are impacts that are irreversible and the worst of the worst. **Non-terminal impacts** are still really bad, but they can (in theory) be fixed).

WHAT IS A DISADVANTAGE?

Right now the economy is showing growth in spite of a looming trade war with China. Because of the tit-for-tat tariffs going on right now, making major economic moves has the potential to hurt the economy. The affirmative's plan would cost 8 gajillion dollars upfront and then an additional payment of 20 cents per month for the next year. This cost would cause a major economic collapse and a weak economy would make us look vulnerable to our enemies, triggering a massive war.

WHAT IS A COUNTERPLAN?

- A counterplan is a negative argument that points out key weaknesses in the affirmative's plan and proposes alterations to it in order to access potential advantages.
- In order for a counterplan to work, it must meet a couple of key conditions:
 - Counterplans must be mutually exclusive of the affirmative plan.
 - Counterplans must be non-topical.
 - Counterplans must have a net benefit that makes them competitive to the affirmative plan.
 - Counterplans must be able to solve for all of the aff's harms.

WHAT IS A COUNTERPLAN?

Counterplan Text: The plan should be implemented...by each of the individual 50 states!

Solvency: The entirety of the US would still be implementing the plan, so assuming that the logic claimed by the IAC is true, the CP can still achieve solvency.

Net Benefit: Allowing the states to implement and enforce the plan on an individual basis protects states rights and keeps us away from having a civil war.

Mutually Exclusive: The 50 states cannot implement and regulate the plan at the same time as the USFG.

Non-Topical: The resolution calls for the USFG, not the states.

WHAT IS A KRITIK?

- A **kritik** is a negative argument that attacks the mindsets of implications that results from enacting the affirmative plan.
- Kritiks are the newest of the off case arguments and have a reputation as the “bad boy” of the debate community.
- Kritiks have a structure that consists of individual parts that flow in logical order:
 - **Link** – a connect between the case and impact
 - Most, but not all, kritikal arguments have link cards that also encompass an internal link.
 - **Impact** – the big bad thing that happens.
 - **Alternative** – What could be done to avoid the impact.

WHAT IS A KRITIK?

As a concept, increasing to increase the rate at which people immigrate to a country is done solely to expand a workforce and increase profits – a byproduct of the capitalist society that we live in. The affirmative’s plan increases the number of people who immigrate to the US substantially by reducing the restrictions on the definition of “legal” immigration. The explosion of laborers in the US will cause an expansion of the capitalist state that can only lead to the exploitation of vulnerable groups and inevitable global war. The only way to avoid this is to reject the affirmative and directly combat its capitalist advocacies.

[Link](#) | [Impact](#) | [Alternative](#)

WHAT IS ON CASE?

- Another strategy that can be used by the negative team is a series of on case arguments, which are arguments that directly relate to a specific claim or idea made in the affirmative team's case.
- On case arguments are best utilized when the speaker clearly labels which section of the IAC they are attacking. This makes it easier to keep track of the flow.
- Sometimes a speaker might want to make an on case argument that they don't have evidence to back up – this would be making use of analytics.
 - A little bit of this goes a long way.

WHAT IS ON CASE?

IAC's Solvency:

Implementing the plan would save puppies from dying and would bring happiness to children everywhere because everyone loves puppies.



On Case Attack:

The plan would actually cause more puppies to die because it costs money that would otherwise be spent on saving puppies. This will make everyone sad because, yes, everyone loves puppies.

COMMERCIAL BREAK:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Hz3RpiljFk>

HOW DO I ANSWER... TOPICALITY?

- Answering topicality is just a matter of responding to each of the initial claims made by the negative team.
 - **Definition/Interpretation**
 - Provide a “**we meet**” statement – show how you fit their interpretation of the word.
 - Provide a **counter definition** that you feel better fits the topic/your case.
 - **Violation**
 - Show how you aren’t actually violating (either because you meet their definition or because of your counter definition).
 - **Standards**
 - Show how you fit their standards. (Provide **counter standards??**)
 - **Voters**
 - Show how you fit their voters. (Provide **counter voters??**)

HOW DO I ANSWER... TOPICALITY?

Definition:

Reduce means to eliminate completely.
(Donaldson 2018)

Violation:

The affirmative team's plan only cuts the restriction by HALF, this maintains the other half of the policy.

Standards:

Prefer our definition because it uses an **EXPERT'S DEFINITION**. It also creates sets clear **LIMITS** between what is and is not topical in the round.

Voters:

Vote on topicality as a means to promote **EDUCATION** on the topic and as a way to ensure **FAIRNESS** in the round.

Counter Definition:

Reduce means to cut by at least 25%. (Vernon 2018)

Violation:

We aren't violating because we are topical under the Vernon definition.

Standards:

Vernon is a leading scholar on immigration for Fancy University, so she provides an **EXPERT'S DEFINITION**. Our definition also sets clear **LIMITS** for the round.

Voters:

Voting on T will maintain **EDUCATION** in the round, but the aff's definition provides **MORE** education. We are topical so we keep the round nice and fair, so vote on T to show that we are topical and that we do maintain **FAIRNESS**.

HOW DO I ANSWER... DISADVANTAGES?

- Answering a disadvantage is just a matter of responding to each of the initial claims made by the negative team.
 - **Uniqueness**
 - Proving that a DA's uniqueness is untrue suggests that the impacts should've been triggered already by the status quo. If they haven't been, **no uniqueness = no impact.**
 - **Link**
 - Proving that a DA's link is founded on faulty logic suggests that **no link = no impact.**
 - **Internal Link**
 - Proving that the affirmative plan doesn't link to the DA shows that **no internal link = no impact.**
 - **Impact**
 - Proving that the DA's impact won't happen (through the methods above) shows that there's nothing to worry about. Or you could use an **impact turn,** which would suggest that the impact is actually made worse without the plan.

HOW DO I ANSWER... DISADVANTAGES?

Uniqueness:

Economy is good now, but it could go bad real fast..

No Uniqueness:

The economy is actually struggling with day to day operations.

Link:

Spending a ton of money is risky.

No Link:

Spending money actually would help the economy by stimulating it.

Internal Link:

The aff plan costs a ton of money.

No Internal Link:

If spending money would help the economy, than the plan's high ticket cost is a good thing.

Impact:

Economic collapse and war.

Impact Turn:

Without a major purchase (like the plan), the economy will continue to be vulnerable to collapse and war. The aff is necessary to prevent this.

HOW DO I ANSWER... COUNTERPLANS?

- There are a number of ways that you can answer a counterplan, and they involve attacking the different qualities of a counterplan:
 - **Counterplans must solve for the AFF's harms:**
 - Proving that a counterplan can't solve for all of the harms listed in the IAC shows that it's not a good plan.
 - **Counterplans must be mutually exclusive from the IAC:**
 - Proving that a counterplan can exist at the same time as the IAC allows for the aff team to **perm** or offer to do both the CP and the plan.
 - **Counterplans must provide a net benefit to be competitive:**
 - Taking out the attached net benefit (usually a DA) shows that the counterplan is no more desirable than the aff.
 - **Counterplans have to be able to work:**
 - The aff team can easily show that a CP can't work for its own independent reason – think of it like an on case attack!

HOW DO I ANSWER... COUNTERPLANS?

CP Text:

Do the plan through the 50 states.

Solvency:

50 states can solve just as well as the USFG.

Mutually Exclusive:

USFG can't regulate the same thing that the 50 states are.

Net Benefit:

Avoids federalism crisis and prevents civil war.

CP Won't Work:

Plan is out of the jurisdiction of the 50 states.

CP Can't Solve:

50 individual regulatory bodies is inefficient and won't solve the harms in time.

Perm – Do Both:

The 50 states adds an entity that can help enforce the plan even though it can't regulate it on its own.

Not Competitive:

Federalism crisis won't happen either way, so why go with the CP?

HOW DO I ANSWER... KRITIKS?

- There are a number of ways that you can answer a kritik, and they involve attacking the different qualities of a kritik. They can be remembered through the acronym POSTCO:
 - **Perm – Do Both:**
 - Do both the alternative of the kritik and the aff plan at the same time.
 - **Offense:**
 - Show that the kritik's alt (or lack of the plan) makes the impact worse.
 - **Solvency:**
 - Show that the kritik's alt cannot solve for its own impact.
 - **Theory:**
 - Show that kritiks are bad for debate as a whole. (basically just complain)
 - **Case Outweighs:**
 - Show that the aff's harms are worse/more immediate than the K's impacts, so it must be handled first.

HOW DO I ANSWER... KRITIKS?

Link:

The plan increases immigration, which generates more workers for the sake of expanding profit and revenue.

Impact:

This furthers the capitalist structure that leads to exploitation of vulnerable peoples and war.

Alternative:

Reject the affirmative plan and combat capitalist structures.

Perm – Do Both:

Offense:

Solvency Attack:

Theory:

Case Outweighs:

HOW DO I ANSWER... ON CASE ARGUMENTS?

- On case arguments are probably the easiest out of all of the negative attacks for the affirmative to respond to.
 - It is very important that you keep an organized **flow** so that you can guarantee that you address each of the on case attacks that were made against you – whether they had evidence or were just **analytics**.
- On case can essentially be boiled down into a game of “they said x, but we say y.”
 - Think of debate as a game of building a house. You build the house in the IAC, and the neg then goes behind you to tear it down. Your goal is to build to have a house standing at the end of the round, so you have to rebuild by answering those attacks!

HOW DO I ANSWER... ON CASE ARGUMENTS?

IAC's Solvency:

Implementing the plan would save puppies from dying and would bring happiness to children everywhere because everyone loves puppies.

On Case Attack:

The plan would actually cause more puppies to die because it costs money that would otherwise be spent on saving puppies. This will make everyone sad because, yes, everyone loves puppies.

Aff Response:

The money used to fund the plan is being redirected from a fund previously used for cat food, so it doesn't hurt puppies. The plan uses this money to save puppies, which is better than the status quo.

COMMERCIAL BREAK:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tyubEwigfUY>

WHAT DO I DO IN THE ROUND?

- Before the round starts, you will check the round posting to see where you will be debating, what side you will be on, who you will be hitting, and who the judge will be. Head to the round as soon as you can – don't set the tournament behind!
- When you get to the room your round is assigned to, wait outside until the judge arrives. Use this as an opportunity to do some last minute prep with your partner/coach or as a chance to get to know your opponent – be friendly!
- After you get in the room, ask the judge if they have a preference where the aff/neg sits and respond accordingly.

WHAT DO I DO IN THE ROUND?

- The last thing you will want to do before starting the round is to ask the judge for their **paradigm**, which is their specific preferences for the round.
 - **Stock Issues Judges** want to see a round that is framed around the key stock issues – they approach it from a very traditional standpoint.
 - **Policy Maker Judges** want the round to be framed in a way that looks at the benefits and risks of implementing the aff's plan – they approach it from a pragmatic standpoint.
 - **Tabula Rasa Judges** want the round to be framed in a way that the debater feels most comfortable with. They don't have any biases towards or against certain arguments heading into the round.
- It is entirely possible for a judge to align with one paradigm but still have preferences for specific arguments. Always ask for clarification if you are confused.

WHAT DO I DO IN THE ROUND?

- Each speech in the CX round has a set function:

CONSTRUCTIVE SPEECHES:

1AC:

Read the case – it should be completely scripted.

1NC:

Run initial negative arguments*

2AC:

Respond to the 1NC

2NC:

Select specific arguments from the 1NC to redevelop strengthen.

REBUTTAL SPEECHES:

1NR:

Redevelop and strengthen the arguments your partner didn't address.

1AR:

Respond to ALL of the neg's attacks.

2NR:

Boil the round down to major points.

2AR:

Respond to the 2NR's final arguments and show why you win.

WHAT DO I DO IN THE ROUND?

- The CX period can be used to ask questions that build up for future arguments that you will make, asking questions that will cause your opponent to stumble, or asking for points of clarification that you didn't understand in your opponent's speech.
 - You don't want to use the CX period as a time suck, but you want to use all of your time.
 - Your first request should always be to get a copy of what your opponent just said – you can immediately hand that to your partner, but you can't converse with them about it during CX.
 - Always look at the judge during the CX period – not the opponent.

**GOOD LUCK THIS SEASON!
HAVE FUN AND LEARN SOMETHING!**

QUESTIONS? ASK THEM NOW!



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