

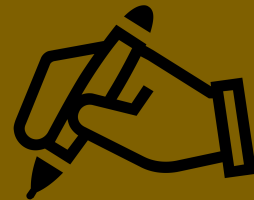


LD Debate Case Construction



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Affirmative Constructive (AC)



1. Resolution

- ❑ e.g. "I affirm the resolution that states RESOLVED: On balance, artificial intelligence improves humanity."

2. Definitions

3. Framework

- ❑ Value: highest thing you seek (e.g. justice, quality of life, beauty)
- ❑ Criterion: mechanism that you use to achieve the value, usually a phrase

4. Observation

- ❑ Arguments that set up a framework regarding how we should interpret things in the resolution

5. Contentions

- ❑ Claim, impact, and warrant
- ❑ Tie back to criterion

The strategy (AC)

1. RESEARCH! Familiarize yourself with the topic before you begin. Understand ambiguous terms and unfamiliar policies.
2. Work backwards
 - a. Start with your contentions and then find a V/C that fits
 - b. Think about the impacts before the evidence
3. Find three diverse contentions
4. Use definitions and observations to shift the debate in your favor
5. Do NOT put too much information. This will backfire on you during the 1AR.
6. Have a healthy balance between empirical evidence and theoretical analysis.

EXAMPLE

RESOLVED: On balance, artificial intelligence improves humanity

For clarification, I would like to offer the following definitions:

On balance- (Cambridge Dictionary) After considering everything

Artificial Intelligence- (John McCarthy, computer scientist who coined the term) a system that perceives its environment and takes actions which maximizes its chances of success.

Humanity- (Merriam-Webster) compassionate, sympathetic, and generous behavior or disposition towards others: the quality or state of being humane.

Value- Common Good

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy defines this as the relational obligation to provide certain shared and beneficial interests to the greatest amount of people in a virtuous manner.

Prefer because:

1. The common good exists through virtuous, fulfilled citizens and harmonious communities. This can only be achieved when the quality of humanity is reflected in humans.
2. When humanity is improved, relationships are strengthened and all people benefit.
3. Because this resolution uses the phrase "On balance," this is a weighing round. The Common Good provides the greatest good for the greatest number of people.

Value Criterion- Increasing Benevolent Cooperation

Justifications:

1. A functioning community requires individuals to work together to decide the best ways to address societal problems. In order to achieve the beneficial interests tied to the common good, citizens must evoke empathy.
2. A mutual understanding free of bias is necessary to reach the ultimate state of humanity.
3. Link- Artificial intelligence creates a bridge between different languages and cultures and eliminates human subjectivity, thus making cooperation easier.

Observation

Humanity is a virtue, not a group of people

Peterson, Christopher; and Seligman, Martin E. P. (2004). Character strengths and virtues: A handbook and classification. Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 0-19-516701-5.

The word humanity stems from the Latin "humanitas," meaning human nature and kindness.

Humanity is a human divine virtue **to 'be compassionate' and to [have] 'fellow feelings' towards others.** It constitutes the core of all human values broadly enshrined in the doctrine of human rights. This ~~code you~~ classify human beings above the rest of animals especially expressing in terms of mental growth. It enshrines the virtue of live and let others live. In ~~other words~~ humanity enables peaceful coexistence of not only human beings but also entire ecology.

Therefore, we're not debating mankind in today's round, we're debating the ability for humans to be benevolent. If the affirmative can prove that AI achieves this, we win the round.

C1- AI reduces harassment and profanity

a. AI detects cases of sexual harassment

Winick, Erin. "Victims of Sexual Harassment Have a New Resource: AI." MIT Technology Review, MIT Technology Review, 6 Dec. 20**17**. www.technologyreview.com/the-download/609694/victims-of-sexual-harassment-have-a-new-resource-ai/.

Artificial intelligence just might be the solution to help identify instances of sexual harassment before the situation spirals for both the victim and the company. Without artificial intelligence algorithms, monitoring platforms on the market leverage only keyword matching to identify suspicious instances of digital communications. Keyword detection

alone often results in a number of false positives and, without the contextual analysis of AI, toxic situations go undetected. By leveraging **AI-infused**

technology, such as Aware by Wiretap, organizations **can identify, investigate, and handle offensive communications in the early stage -- without requiring the victim to report the incident to a superior. Considering 60% of people who speak up about harassment face retaliation, AI will also allow employees to stay anonymous**

when reporting problems, ensuring that more people are able to raise issues without fear of retaliation from their employer. Online tools, in which employees are "interviewed" by AI chatbots rather than humans **and will remove biases,**

enabling employees to find help wherever and whenever they need it and in private – without the need to schedule meetings during HR office hours, or to call a stranger on a whistleblowing hotline. Sometimes they also get involved in legal battles afterward or find HR

managers don't even write down reported problems. **With Artificial Intelligence** in the workplace, the **75% of sexual harassment cases that typically go unreported, can be automatically identified.**

Armed with this technology, organizations can protect employees, the company, and the culture from malicious employees who would otherwise be toxic to the workforce.

b. AI fights online abuse

Zeiler, Matthew. "Some Artificial Intelligence Applications Are Making Humans Better People." Recode, Recode, 23 Mar. 20**16**.
www.recode.net/2016/3/23/11587194/some-artificial-intelligence-applications-are-making-humans-better.

17% of internet users reported online harassment, with 41% reporting feelings of social anxiety and 37% with feelings of depression

Jigsaw, a subsidiary of Google that develops tools to promote freedom of expression and combat extremism online, has developed an artificial intelligence tool called Conversation **AI designed to detect and filter out abusive**

language online to combat online harassment. Jigsaw trained Conversation AI on 17 million comments on New York Times articles and 13,000 discussions on Wikipedia pages to identify abusive language and **has worked with 92 percent accuracy**. Jigsaw will make Conversation

AI available as open source to allow web developers to implement it for their sites as a filter that blocks abusive language in comments. **Furthermore**, For

marketplaces on the internet, **AI is playing a large role in moderating what users put up for sale — whether it's guns, drugs, live exotic animals or other illegal items, thus regulating the black market.**

Several online auction sites use AI to identify when users upload photos of contraband, and prevent them from making a listing. This filtering has a huge impact, because people tend to upload pictures of the real items, but list inaccurate and innocuous text descriptions like "vase of flowers" to avoid traditional text-moderation filters.

LINK: By reducing the bias that exists with reporting sexual and online harassment, cooperation among humans is strengthened. The qualities of compassion and kindness stemming from humanity are emphasized when we reduce cases of harassment.

REMEMBER!

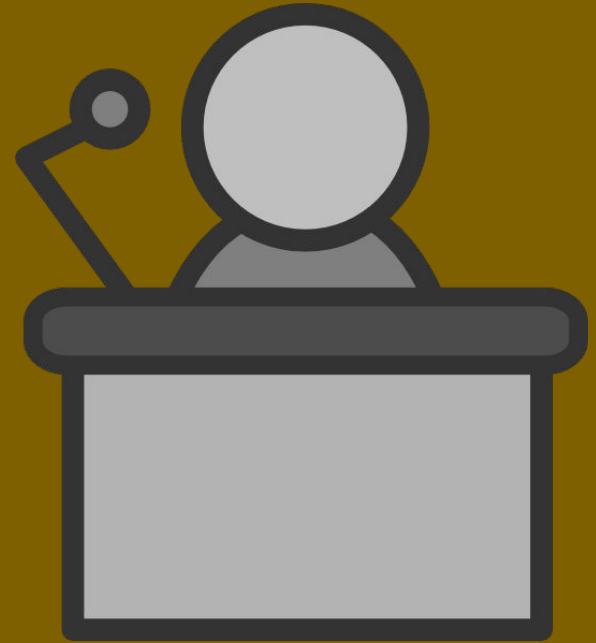
You have the burden of proof and must set the standards for the round.



Negative Constructive (NC)

1. Resolution
2. Definitions (only if necessary!)
3. Framework
4. Observation
5. Contentions- NO MORE THAN 2!
6. Refute AC

3:30-4:00



The strategy (NC)

1. Follow same case construction process as AC
2. Find two unique contentions
 - a. Make it difficult for your opponent to address ALL your arguments in the 1AR
 - b. IMPACT IMPACT IMPACT! There should be no way that the aff has enough time in the 1AR to top your impacts. Make them good.
3. On refuting the Aff case...
 - a. Use evidence, do not rely purely on your analysis
 - b. Work during the AC and work fast



What makes good evidence?

How to actually be right 101

Judges don't care about your opinion :/



Strong evidence vs. weak evidence

Strong evidence: Provides direct proof of your point.

Weak evidence: Consistent with your assertion but fails to rule out other, contradictory assertions. AKA circumstantial evidence.

It's not enough to find an expert who agrees with your point. You have to find concrete proof of your point.

It's not enough to say, "When X happens, Y happens." You have to say, "When X has happened, Y has happened," or "When X happens, Y happens to Z degree." (impact)

The 2 types of proper evidence

Your judge when you provide bad evidence:

Quantification

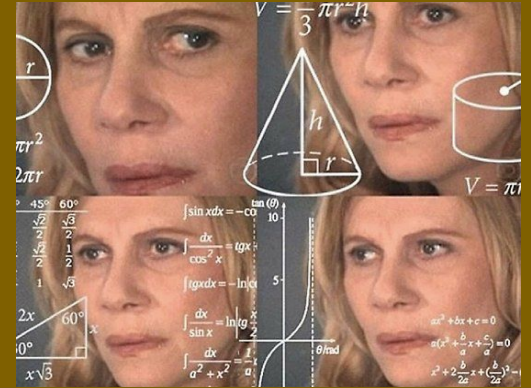
Provides a concrete number to back up your point.

Ex. A 15% increase, 1400 deaths, \$2300 in annual lost income

Substantiation

Provides an example of something that is unquantifiable but objectively true- not an argument, but a fact.

Ex. A declaration from a foreign government, a law in place, a historical incident



Smart research!

Don't start researching with a point already in mind.

Find evidence first, then come up with points.

Look at your sources. They should be credible (and true!) because an annoying debater like me will turn the debate into a source debate.

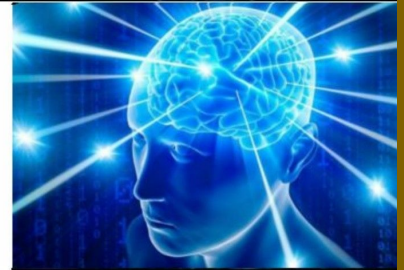
Making quantified and substantiated arguments



Arguing whether Fox News or CNN is better (the answer is neither).



Telling the judge that your opponent can't use InfoWars as a credible source.



Tips for a good value and criterion

- ❑ Watch out for circular reasoning!
 - ❑ E.g. You can't have a value of "life" and your criterion is "preserving human life."
- ❑ Make sure that they fit with your contentions.
- ❑ Do not go crazy on philosophy unless...
 - ❑ You truly understand what you're talking about
 - ❑ You can fully explain to your judge and opponent (in a concise fashion) what your philosophy is.
 - ❑ E.g. Don't run Kant's "Categorical Imperative" if you have little knowledge on deontology
- ❑ Make your value impactful. The debate boils down to the V/C arguments.
- ❑ AVOID: Morality and utilitarianism
 - ❑ Morality- everyone's interpretation of morality is different.
 - ❑ Util- places too much emphasis on overall happiness of the majority of people. This justifies making the minority suffer.

Refutation tips

- Name/Signpost: Identify the argument you are refuting, otherwise no one will know what you are talking about. But do it briefly, since you don't want to be making your opponent's arguments for them.
- Explain/Claim: State in one sentence what your main objection to the argument is.
- Support/Warrant: Support what you just said. Make clear precisely why the argument is weak, or lay out in full form your counterargument. This is where the real work of refutation is done.
- Conclude/Impact: Restate your main point to make sure it sticks in your audience's mind. Tie this refutation back into the refutation of the opponent's whole case.

Having unique arguments will get you far.

No one wants to hear about the same generic arguments over and over again.

AND your opponents will likely not have prepped your arguments.



Happy writing!!!

Questions?

