

Policy Debate Judging: Cheat-Sheet

Resolution

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its public health assistance to Sub-Saharan Africa.

Round Structure

There are three types of Policy Debate speeches:

- 1) Constructives – these are speeches where new arguments can and should be presented. These speeches allow debaters to establish their cases for or against the resolution. They are always 8 minutes.
- 2) Cross Examination – these chunks of time are for asking questions. Debaters can ask for clarification or can press their opponents on the merits of their case. C-X is always 3 minutes.
- 3) Rebuttals – these are speeches designed to answer arguments that have already been made and they give students a chance to clarify why they should win. New arguments are not allowed in rebuttals.

Negative Block

<u>Speech</u>	<u>Duration (minutes)</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
1AC - First Affirmative Constructive	8	Present the Affirmative Case for the Resolution
Cross Examination	3	Ask questions of the Affirmative
1NC - First Negative Constructive	8	Present arguments against the Affirmative Case
Cross Examination	3	Ask questions of the Negative
2AC - Second Affirmative Constructive	8	Answer Negative attacks
Cross Examination	3	Ask questions of the Affirmative
2NC - Second Negative Constructive	8	Answer 2AC arguments and build up Negative attacks
Cross Examination	3	Ask questions of the Negative
1NR - First Negative Rebuttal	5	Answer 2AC arguments and build up Negative attacks
1AR - First Affirmative Rebuttal	5	Answer Block arguments and rebuild the Affirmative Case
2NR - Second Negative Rebuttal	5	Clarify the reasons that the Negative should win
2AR - Second Negative Rebuttal	5	Clarify the reasons that the Affirmative should win
Prep time	5	Time during the round for debaters to prepare their speeches

Flowing

You will want a system of taking notes. There is really only one right way to do this – we call it flowing.

1AC	1NC	2AC	BLOCK	1AR	2NR	2AR

1AC Structure

Significance:

- What is the quantitative measure of the bad stuff?

Harms:

- What is the qualitative measure of the bad stuff?

Inherency:

- Why does the bad stuff persist?

Plan:

- How does the Affirmative propose to fix the bad stuff?

Solvency:

- Will the Affirmative plan work?

Disadvantage Structure

Uniqueness:

- Bad stuff isn't happening in the status quo.
- Ex. China and the US are getting along.

Link:

- The plan causes something bad to happen.
- Ex. US involvement in Africa causes China to freak out.

Internal Link:

- The connection between the plan action and bad stuff.
- Ex. China becomes aggressive and lashes out at Taiwan.

Impact:

- Bad stuff caused by the plan.
- Ex. War with Taiwan draws in the US and goes Nuclear.

Topicality

Definition / Counter Definition:

- Lays out meaning of words in the resolution.

Violation / We Meets:

- Arguments about whether the plan falls within the definition.

Standards:

- Help you to evaluate which definition is superior.

Voters:

- Reasons why judges should cast their ballot for one team on this issue.

The most important thing to remember is that it is the student's job to adapt to their judges. Let the students know that you haven't judged a lot of debates and that they will need to explain arguments and avoid jargon. The debaters that do the best job of persuading you to vote for them are the ones who deserve to win so relax and have fun.