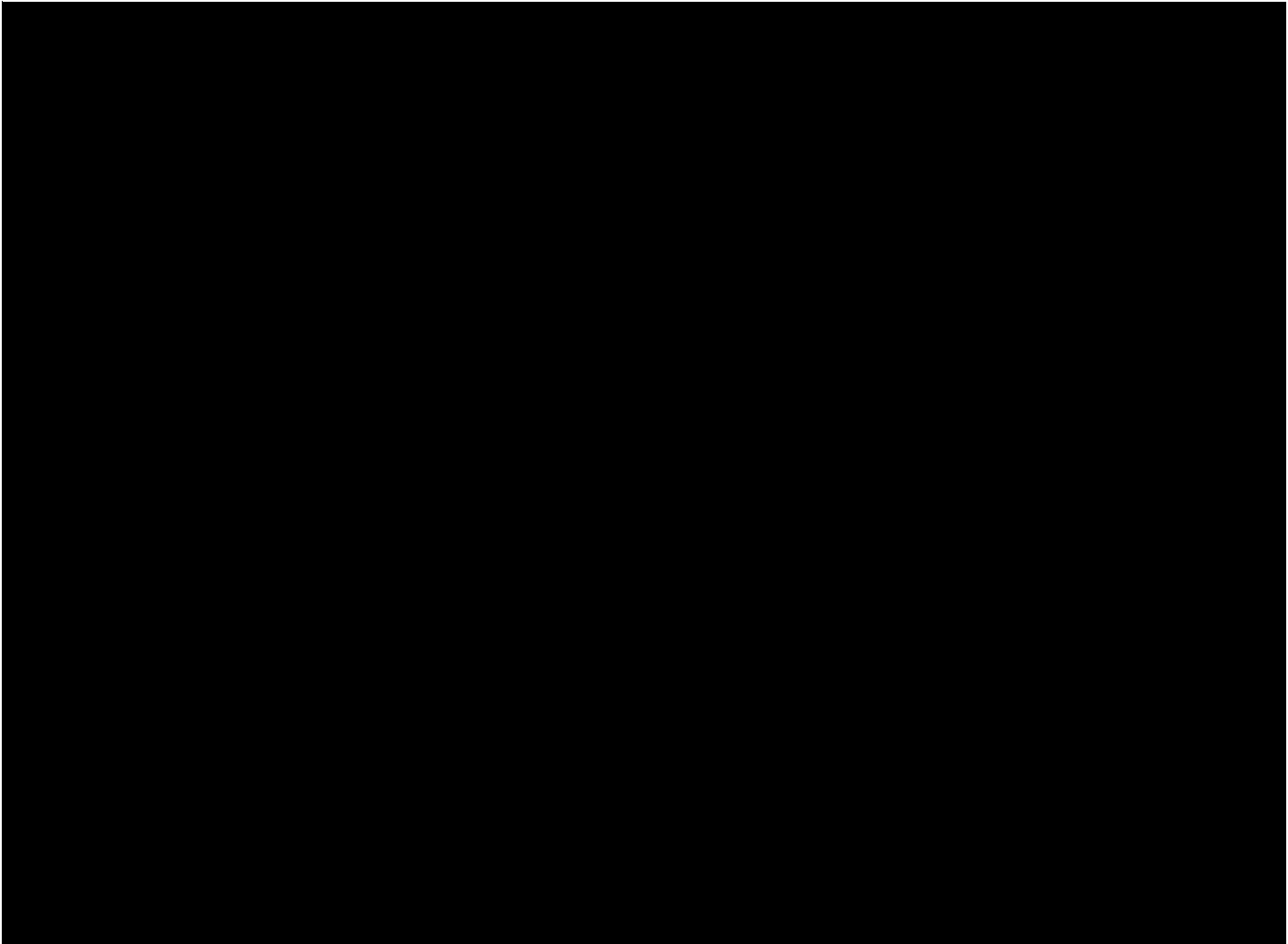


**INTRODUCTION TO  
PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE  
& IPDA**



## DEBATE PRACTICE: THE BASICS

### SPEAKER ROLES, RESOLUTIONAL ANALYSIS, PRIMA FACIE & STOCK ISSUES, TOPICALITY BLOCK

#### SPEAKER ROLES

- **GOVERNMENT:**
  - Has the burden of proving/upholding the resolution
  - In policy rounds, Government wants to CHANGE the status quo
  - In policy rounds, Government must establish a case that is **Prima facie** (valid and worth discussing on its face based on the **Stock Issues**)
  - Gets the first word (PMC) and last word (PMR)
  - **Prime Minister:** Delivers first constructive speech presenting the Government case, then delivers the final rebuttal speech by rebutting the “Neg Block” and offering Government Voting Issues
  - **Member of Government:** Delivers the third constructive speech by rebutting the Leader of Opposition and rebuilding the Government case.
- **OPPOSITION:**
  - Has the burden of “disproving” the resolution
  - Rebutts the Government case and presents **Off-Case** argumentation
  - In policy rounds, Opposition wants to MAINTAIN the status quo
  - In policy rounds, Opposition must try to prove that a case is **NOT Prima facie** and that there is not enough in the way of Stock Issues to justify a change to the status quo
  - Has the benefit of the “**Presumption**” and the advantage of the **Neg Block**
  - **Leader of Opposition:** Presents the first opposition constructive (refuting the Government’s case as presented by the Prime Minister and presenting Off-Case argumentation, and presents the first rebuttal (crystallizing and presenting Opposition Voting Issues)
  - **Member of Opposition:** Delivers the final constructive speech by rebutting the Member of Government and attacking the Government case/rebuilding Off-Case arguments

#### SPEAKING ORDER

PRIME MINISTER (PM) ----- 7 MINUTE CONSTRUCTIVE  
 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (LO) ----- 8 MINUTE CONSTRUCTIVE  
 MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT (MG) ----- 8 MINUTE CONSTRUCTIVE  
 MEMBER OF THE OPPOSITION (MO) ----- 8 MINUTE CONSTRUCTIVE  
 LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (LO) ----- 4 MINUTE REBUTTAL  
 PRIME MINISTER (PM) ----- 5 MINUTE REBUTTAL

\***Constructive Speeches** are speeches in which new arguments may legally be introduced into the debate. In **Rebuttal Speeches**, it is illegal to introduce new arguments that do not respond directly to previously introduced arguments.

## RESOLUTION TYPES & RESOLUTIONAL ANALYSIS

The **RESOLUTION** is also commonly referred to as the Proposition or the Question, and must present:

1. Controversy
  - a. It has to be something we don't all agree about, allows for fair ground on both sides
2. One Central Idea
  - a. To restrict the conversation
3. Neutral Terms
  - a. Language itself doesn't push you in any direction. Language is objective.
4. A Precise Statement of the Affirmative Desired Position

TYPES OF RESOLUTIONS/PROPOSITIONS:

1. Resolution of Policy
  - a. Something should or should not be done
  - b. Action should be taken
  - c. Almost always has the word **should** in the resolution
2. Proposition of Fact
  - a. Something is or is not true
3. Proposition of Value
  - a. Something is or is not wished for
  - b. Something is good or bad
  - c. Often presents a **binary (x is preferable to y, etc.)**

DEFINING THE RESOLUTION:

- The Government **must** identify the type of resolution presented and present the justification ("This is a policy resolution because it calls for action"; "This is a value resolution because it asks us to weigh what is preferable between different options"; "This is a fact resolution because it asks us to consider what *is* true", etc.)
- The Government has the right to redefine the resolution to establish clarity (what **exactly** is being debated) so long as the redefined **resolution reflects the spirit** of the original resolution
- In some cases, the resolution may not necessarily *need* to be redefined (but it is most often necessary or at least helpful to do so)
- Some important terms that will always need redefinition:
  - TH (This House): A term representing the symbolic "parliamentary" agency debating the topic. The Government must define TH based on the appropriate agency addressing the topic, and then the debaters assume the role of said agency. *We are This House*. If TH is redefined as "Congress", for instance, then the debaters are symbolically members of Congress debating the resolution

- ITC (In this case): The Government may need to define a specific context in which to consider the rest of the resolution
- USFG: Should always be specified to mean U.S. Federal Government
- Any obvious metaphors, abstract concepts, etc.

DEFINE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:

- *TH will dance in the rain*
- *ITC, it is preferable to burn the house than repair the house*
- *The sky is falling*

### TRAITS OF PRIMA FACIE/STOCK ISSUES

It is the Government's burden to in establish and WIN on these issues:

#### 1. TOPICALITY

- a. What the Government is talking about relates to the Resolution

#### 2. SIGNIFICANCE

- a. Something bad is happening right now
- b. HARMS are present in the status quo
- c. Must be demonstrated on two levels:
  - i. Qualitative
    - 1. The essence is bad (inherent nature)
  - ii. Quantitative
    - 1. How often does it happen?

#### 3. INHERENCY

- a. The harms are rooted/built into the system
- b. 3 Levels of Inherency (BARRIERS):
  - i. Structural (built into the law)
  - ii. Attitudinal (built into the mind)
  - iii. Existential (that which exists will continue to exist in the absence of a counterforce)

#### 4. SOLVENCY

- a. "Will the plan solve the problem?"

#### 5. ADVANTAGES (DISADVANTAGES)\*

**\*(not necessarily a prima facie issue, but a still a stock issue)**

- a. Does the plan offer unique benefits that did not exist before its implementation? Do those advantages outweigh any disadvantages?
- b. In Opposition's case, are there any advantages to changing the status quo, and if not, why bother? Do disadvantages that emerge from the plan outweigh any potential advantages?

## TOPICALITY BLOCK

More than any other prima facie issue, parliamentary debate rounds seem to be decided on issues of Topicality. Other teams WILL run topicality challenges against your Government definitions. Thus, it is crucial to understand how to run topicality challenges of your own as well as defend against topicality challenges. Topicality challenges **must be run at the top of the case before entering the case proper or off case**. Here is a basic structure to follow when running a topicality challenge:

**1. NUMBER & LABEL:** Announce that you are running a topicality challenge and, if you are running more than one, number each (ex: “I have one topicality challenge to make” or “I have two topicality challenges. My first topicality challenge is...”)

**A. TERM:** What is the term in question?

**B. VIOLATION:** What type of violation?

- i. **Non-Topical:** The redefined resolution has nothing to do with the initial resolution
- ii. **Anti-Topical:** The redefined resolution does the opposite of the initial resolution
- iii. **Extra-Topical:** The redefined resolution goes beyond what the initial resolution permits

**C. STANDARD(S):**

- i. **Predictability:** Due to the nature of preparation time, the Opposition should be able to reasonably predict the general direction of Government’s interpretation so that prep time can be used valuably. The Opposition could not have predicted this interpretation of the resolution based on the original resolution, and therefore have not been allowed the opportunity to utilize prep time effectively.
- ii. **Grammatical Integrity:** The redefined resolution should maintain the grammatical integrity of the original resolution without breaking apart clauses or ignoring grammatical characteristics like punctuation or capitalization. By violating the grammatical integrity of the initial resolution, the Government has moved too far away from the framer’s intent.
- iii. **Education:** Debates should always be educational in nature. By skewing the resolution away from the framer’s intent and/or redefining the resolution in an unfair manner, the Government has impaired our ability to have an educational debate
- iv. **Ground Loss:** The resolution should always offer ample ground for debate to both sides. The government’s redefinitions put the Opposition at a disadvantage. While ground does not need to be shared equally, the ground is too heavily imbalanced for a fair debate to take place.

**D. JURISDICTION:** Why should the judge vote on this issue?

- As the judge, you should prefer the team that is topical and upholds the standards of parliamentary debate

**E. VOTER:** Tell the judge that this is an “**a-priori\*** voting issue”

\*a-priori means that the judge should be able to vote on this issue alone. In other words, if the judge agrees with the topicality challenge, then the ballot can be cast in the Opposition’s favor based on the topicality issue alone

**MEMORIZE THE TOPICALITY BLOCK! IT WILL BE AN INCREDIBLY VALUABLE TOOL TO WIN ROUNDS AND TO DEFEND AGAINST TOPICALITY CHALLENGES**

## DEBATE PRACTICE: THE BASICS CASE CONSTRUCTION

### TOP OF THE CASE

GOVERNMENT	OPPOSITION
Thank You's and Roadmap	Thank You's and Roadmap
Resolutional Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read original resolution</li> <li>• Identify type of resolution (fact, value, policy)</li> <li>• Redefine Terms &amp; Justify Redefinitions</li> <li>• Read Redefined Resolution</li> </ul>	Resolutional Analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read Original Resolution</li> <li>• Agree or Disagree with type of resolution*</li> <li>• Read Redefined Resolution</li> <li>• Agree or Disagree with Definitions**</li> </ul> <p>*Tri-Cot Block (if you disagree with the type of resolution identified by the Gov)</p> <p>**Topicality Block (if you disagree with definitions)</p>
Weighing Mechanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the lens through which the judge can determine a winner</li> <li>• Type of weighing mechanism depends on the type of case:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Policy WM:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Net Benefits (Most Common)</li> <li>▪ Preponderance of Evidence</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Fact WM:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More True Than False</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Value WM:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More Good Than Bad</li> <li>▪ Terminal Value</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Weighing Mechanism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree or Disagree with Weighing Mechanism</li> <li>• If you disagree:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Identify and Justify Why the Gov's WM is not adequate</li> <li>○ Offer an Alternative WM</li> <li>○ Justify why your alternative WM is preferable to Gov's original WM</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Observations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer any necessary observations (these might pertain to establishing contextual information important to the case, etc.)</li> </ul>	Observations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If necessary, address any concerns in Gov observations</li> <li>• Offer any necessary observations for Opp case</li> </ul>

**GOVERNMENT CASE TEXT**

<b>POLICY</b>	<b>FACT</b>	<b>VALUE</b>
<b>A. HARMS</b>	<b>CONTENTIONS</b>	<b>CONTENTIONS</b>
H1) A. B. C. Impact	CONTENTION 1 a) Premise 1 b) Premise 2 c) Combined Premise d) Impact	CONTENTION 1 a) Premise 1 b) Premise 2 c) Impact
H2) A. B. C. Impact	CONTENTION 2 a) Premise 1 b) Premise 2 c) Combined Premise d) Impact	CONTENTION 2 a) Premise 1 b) Premise 2 c) Impact
(ESTABLISH AS MANY HARMS AS NECESSARY)	CONTENTION 3 a) Premise 1 b) Premise 2 c) Combined Premise d) Impact	CONTENTION 3 a) Premise 1 b) Premise 2 c) Impact
	CONTENTION 4 a) Premise 1 b) Premise 2 c) Combined Premise d) Impact	CONTENTION 4 a) Premise 1 b) Premise 2 c) Impact
<b>B. INHERENCY</b>		
I1) Structural Inherency A. B. C. Impact	<b>CRYSTALLIZATION</b>	<b>CRYSTALLIZATION</b>
I2) Attitudinal/Existential Inherency A. B. C. Impact		
<b>C. PLAN</b>		
A. Agency Who is implementing and carrying out the plan?		
B. Funding Where are you getting the money for your plan?		
C. Mandate(s) a) b) c) (however many are necessary)		

These are the STEPS of your plan. You may only have one, but try to be as specific as possible.	
D. Timeline When is the plan being enacted	
E. Enforcement How is the plan being enforced? Mis-mal-or non-feasance	
F. Affirmative Intent This is a protective step allowing for the Government to clarify aspects of the plan as necessary	
D. <b>SOLVENCY</b> a) Harm 1 b) Harm 2 c) Harm 3 d) ...	
E. <b>ADVANTAGES</b> a) Advantage 1 b) Advantage 2 c) Advantage 3 d) ...	



### OPPOSITION CASE

POLICY	FACT	VALUE
<p>OFF CASE:</p> <p>A. DISADVANTAGE 1  a) Orient  b) Claim  c) Warrant  d) Impact</p> <p>B. DISADVANTAGE 2  a) Orient  b) Claim  c) Warrant  d) Impact</p> <p>C. DISADVANTAGE 3  a) Orient  b) Claim  c) Warrant  d) Impact</p> <p>AS MANY DA's AS NECESSARY</p>	<p>OFF-CASE:</p> <p>A. COUNTER-CONTENTION 1  a)  b)  c) Impact</p> <p>B. COUNTER-CONTENTION 2  a)  b)  c) Impact</p> <p>C. COUNTER-CONTENTION 3  a)  b)  c) Impact</p> <p>AS MANY CC'S AS NECESSARY</p>	
<p>ON-CASE REFUTATION  LINE-BY-LINE</p>	<p>ON-CASE REFUTATION  LINE-BY-LINE</p>	

## DEBATE PRACTICE

### Intro to IPDA

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#### **Philosophical Difference from Parliamentary Debate:**

“Public Debate (IPDA) privileges the use of lay judges, accessibility to all, and real-world application. In other words, the goal should be an intelligent argument that everyone can understand.

Debaters are expected to be courteous, to have real-world oratory skills, and to avoid falling back on ‘debate truisms’ and tactics like ‘spreading’ or reliance on highly technical debate jargon or unwritten rules of debate theory. This form of debate should be accessible to Individual Events teams as well as ‘debate schools.’ This concept is best-illustrated by a point made in the IPDA guidelines:

‘The goal of the International Public Debate Association is to promote a highly rhetorical and oratorical style of public speaking. For this reason, it is recommended that judges be instructed to award the decision in a close round to the superior speaking style rather than to the negative.’

Basically, the rules explicitly favor the better speaker over a long-held debate tradition.”

#### **Practical Differences from Parliamentary Debate:**

- 1-on-1 style of debate
- 30 minutes (or 20, depending on the tournament) of prep time in which Internet access IS ALLOWED
- Emphasis on research – sources can and should be cited in the debate
- Resolutions tend to be less abstract – they will most often be debated AS IS to ensure that both debaters use prep time effectively
- Less distinction between resolution types – generally, each type of resolution is debated in the same structural way

#### **Note on Judge Philosophies in IPDA:**

- On our circuit, judges tend to have very different philosophies toward judging IPDA; Some treat it completely differently from Parli, with added emphasis on speaking ability and little to no emphasis on debate “lingo” (topicality, significance, solvency, etc.). Others treat it like an abbreviated Parli round, with little emphasis on speaking ability and more emphasis on stock issues.
- In order to appeal to as wide an array of judging philosophies as possible, we seek to approach IPDA as a hybrid of these two approaches --- we will NOT ignore the fundamentals of good argumentation (use of stock issues, weighing mechanisms, etc.), but we will focus more on speaking ability and simplicity in this style than in Parli

**Speaker Roles:****AFFIRMATIVE:**

- Like the Government Team in Parliamentary Debate, the Affirmative Speaker UPHOLDS THE RESOLUTION
- Has the Burden of Proof – Must use evidence to demonstrate that the resolution should be upheld

**NEGATIVE:**

- Like the Opposition Team in Parliamentary Debate, the Negative Speaker NEGATES THE RESOLUTION
- Has the benefit of the Presumption
- Must use evidence to demonstrate that the resolution should NOT be upheld

**Speaking Order:**

1<sup>st</sup> Affirmative Speech ---- 5 minutes  
 Cross Examination ---- 2 minutes  
 1<sup>st</sup> Negative Speech ---- 6 minutes  
 Cross Examination ---- 2 minutes  
 Affirmative Rebuttal ---- 3 minutes  
 Negative Rebuttal ---- 5 minutes  
 Affirmative Summary ---- 3 minutes

**Speech Responsibilities:**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Affirmative Speech</b>	Present Affirmative Case Establish 3+ Reasons to Uphold Resolution
<b>Cross Examination</b>	Negative Cross-Examines Affirmative* Seeks to “Poke Holes” in Affirmative Case Question Credibility of Research  *Negative is responsible for coming up with questions to ask during the 1 <sup>st</sup> Affirmative Speech
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Negative Speech</b>	Present Negative Case Establish 3+ Reasons to Negate Resolution If Time Permits, Negative May Refute Affirmative Points
<b>Cross Examination</b>	Affirmative Cross-Examines Negative* Seeks to “Poke Holes” in Negative Case Question Credibility of Research  *Affirmative is responsible for coming up with questions to ask during 1 <sup>st</sup> Negative Speech

<b>Affirmative Rebuttal</b>	Refute Negative Case Rebuild Affirmative Case
<b>Negative Rebuttal</b>	Refute Affirmative Case Rebuild Negative Case Present Negative Voting Issues
<b>Affirmative Summary</b>	Refute Final Negative Points Rebuild Affirmative Case Present Affirmative Voting Issues

### Case Structure

<b>1<sup>st</sup> AFFIRMATIVE</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> NEGATIVE</b>
Top of Case: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick Thank-You's</li> <li>• Restate Resolution</li> <li>• Redefine Resolution (If Necessary)</li> <li>• Weighing Mechanism:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Often a value or standard like Quality of Life, Health, Security, Education, etc.</li> <li>○ Possibly something like Net Benefits if approached as a policy debate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	TOP OF CASE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick Thank-You's</li> <li>• Restate Resolution</li> <li>• Restate Redefined Resolution (If Necessary)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If the Affirmative's redefinition is not topical, make an OBSERVATION rather than a topicality argument</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Weighing Mechanism:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Either accept Affirmative's WM or Present &amp; Justify a new one</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
CONTENTION 1:	CONTENTION 1:
CONTENTION 2:	CONTENTION 2:
CONTENTION 3:	CONTENTION 3:
PLAN (IN POLICY ROUND): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While IPDA does not emphasize the distinction between resolution types, it never hurts to present a short plan if the resolution reads like a policy resolution. In this case, focus primarily on the <b>Agency, Mandate, and Solvency</b></li> </ul>	REFUTATION (IF TIME PERMITS)
CRYSTALLIZATION	CRYSTALLIZATION