

1. Preparing the Aff. Case

A. The order in the Affirmative Constructive:

1. Hook
2. Resolution
3. Value
4. Definitions
5. Criterion
6. 3 Contentions
7. Conclusion

Before we start: Conflict. We are looking at situations in which the two sides of the resolution are incompatible with each other – where we cannot have both – where valuing one comes at the detriment of the other. For example, when upholding free trade harms fair trade, or when upholding fair trade harms free trade. Not when free trade is the same as fair trade, or when they can both coexist – that’s no conflict. Resolution sometimes says “when in conflict” to emphasize this (although there is still conflict even if it doesn’t say that).

Why do we need conflict? Because without conflict, there is no debate. Plus, looking at things in conflict helps us realize what we value – sometimes we don’t know what we truly value until we are forced to choose. Conflict shows up the most in your examples, but the whole case should have it.

Now we can get started!

The order in which to Prepare the Affirmative Constructive:

Do Initial Definitions of Resolution words (see below Definitions)

Choose a Value!!

What does it mean to value something?

- To place worth on something
- To treat it with importance
- It is more important than other things
- Values will always be abstract nouns
- Think of a 1-word answer as to WHY the judges should vote for you
- Your value is your End-Goal!
- Your value CANNOT be a word from the resolution.
- Think! Weigh one idea over another. Think about Why? Ask Why? again and again until you get to a foundational truth.

- Why is fair trade above free trade?
- Turn it around: Why is fair trade NOT above free trade?
- Then, your fundamental reason is your value!!

Prepare Your Criterion—This is the rationale for your value. The criterion shows how you get to your value. The criterion basically answers the questions: How do we get my value? What is the way to achieve my value? Or how do we know when my value has been upheld? The criterion is the helper to your value.

The value is abstract and vague, so we need something more concrete, and that's where the criterion comes in. The criterion gives us something we can look at and touch - it gives us a way to measure our value...both to know how we can uphold it, and to examine examples and see when we have upheld it...in other words, because value is vague, you use criteria as a lens to weigh the arguments. Then you use the criterion to say, "the criterion shows that the value is achieved through my side of the resolution. Therefore, fair trade is better."

- It makes your case clearer
- It makes the nebulous value more concrete.
- Ask: How do we get my value? What is the way to achieve my value?
- 2 ways you can use the Criterion:
 - a. As a way to achieve the value
 - b. As a measure or indicator of when we have reached the value
- ** The best criterion is one that can do BOTH of the above!!!!
- There is a strong link between the criterion and your value. The criterion is the helper to your value.
- The criterion is generally more concrete.
- Think about how you're going to support your value and criterion...
- Your side of the resolution can be your criterion
- You might not need a criterion at all

Firm up all Definitions—These are crucial to setting the boundaries

- Define resolution words
- Purpose: To make sure we are all on the same page
- Cite for credibility
- Good definitions should be fair—not abusive to the other side
- A good test: Can I use these definitions on both sides of the debate?
- Consult a dictionary

Prepare your Contentions. These are the main arguments.

- There are generally 3.
- These 3 have tags, or names, like topic sentences of 3 paragraphs

- This is much like an essay.
- How do value and criterion play into developing the 3 contentions? Your value and criterion are always somewhere in your 3 contentions.
- What should your contentions be? What are the reasons why you should win? Well, **to win the round, you need to prove 3 things:**
- **1. Your value is the most important thing we should care about. That's the one thing we all want. that's what we should base decision on.**
- **2. Your side upholds the value, the most important thing we are caring about. Since your side gets us what we all want, you should win.**
- **3. Your opponent's side doesn't uphold the value, the one thing we all want. So, he shouldn't win.**
- **SO, THE BEST WAY TO DO THE CONTENTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:**
 - 1) Explain how your value is the highest value in the round
 - 2) Your side of the resolution leads to your criterion and value
 - 3) Opponent's side of the resolution does not lead to the criterion or highest value, and therefore should be rejected
- Think about how you are going to elaborate on these arguments...

Have a claim, warrant, and impact.

Claim: what you are saying, what you are trying to prove – what you are "claiming" to the judge and your opponent

Warrant: explain your claim. Make your argument and show why it is true. Explain your claim, argue your claim – just make your argument!

Impact: explain why this is important and why they should care.

Use of Examples:

The purpose of examples is to support an argument. Write your own words, then support it with examples. There are 3 types of Ex.'s:

1. Hypothetical
2. Analogy (weakest form of support)
3. Real World Ex.

Using quotes is very useful. It shows that others think that way; lends credibility. Use them in context. Find an expert in the field.

Note: DO NOT USE EXTREME/RIDICULOUS/SUPER RADICAL EXAMPLES!!! They are unconvincing and not good argumentation. (An example of such an “extreme example” would be me saying “Patriotism is bad. Take the example of Hitler; he was patriotic, and as a result, he killed Jews!” This is not a reasonable example of patriotism; the whole example is ridiculous because it is so extreme).

This isn't to say that you can't use examples of something going wrong. You should do that. Just use common sense.

Common extreme examples that you should avoid:

-Hitler

-North Korea/Kim Jong Un

Evidence in the round: unless it's common knowledge, you need to cite all evidence you use. If you reference a news article, you have to cite it. If you quote someone, site it. You don't have to cite stuff everyone knows, like the sky is blue. Have citations of evidence. Have the parts you use printed out on a separate sheet, also with citations. Sometimes people ask to see it, although this is rare.

DON'T EVER USE WIKIPEDIA IN A ROUND!! For all we know, someone else filled the article with incorrect garbage, or you changed the article to make it say whatever you wanted it to say, then grabbed it and said "look Wikipedia supports my position!"

EXAMPLES GO IN THE CONTENTIONS!!! THEY ILLUSTRATE THE CONTENTIONS TO PROVE THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

Prepare the Hook (attention-getter)

- Story
- Shocking statistic or fact
- Quotes are often used—seems more dignified and researched.
- Relate it to the Resolution!
- Can use examples
- Analogies

Step #11: **Embed the Resolution verbatim** into your Constructive. This is the thesis.

Final order:

1. Hook/Introduction

2. Resolution (write out the resolution word for word after the introduction)
3. Definitions
4. Resolutional Analysis (optional)
5. Value
6. Criterion
7. 3 Contentions

Note: **Don't give extraneous info** - if what you are saying does not have any obvious impact on your main arguments, then that is extraneous info, and you shouldn't be saying it at all.