

Introduction to CX Debate

Debate Central Workshop
June 27, 2007



What Is Debate

Debate happens everyday:

- Congress
- Business Meetings
- Family Discussions

Debate is discussion to determine whether change is good or bad. --Tuna Snider, "The Code of the Debater"

Organizations like UIL and NFL formalize debate.

How to Debate

Stock Issues are the core elements of an affirmative case.

- Topicality
- Significance/Harms
- Solvency
- Inherency

Topicality

- Topicality is about what the plan does; it ensured the affirmative stays within the resolution.
- Effects: Plan is not directly topical in its first action.
- Extra: Parts of the plan are topical but other parts are not topical.
- Topicality ensures that the debate is fair and educational.

Significance/Harms

- Significance and harms deal with the importance of the problem your case solves.
- Harms are the results which would occur if the problem were not solved.
- Significance evaluates the importance of the harms.
- Example: Death from HIV/AIDS

Solvency

- Solvency is whether or not the affirmative's plan solves the problem it identifies.
- If the affirmative's plan does not solve the harms, there would be no reason to put it into effect.

Inherency

- Inherency refers to the necessity of the resolution.
- If the affirmative team's plan is already in action, it is non-inherent and there is no need to enact it again.

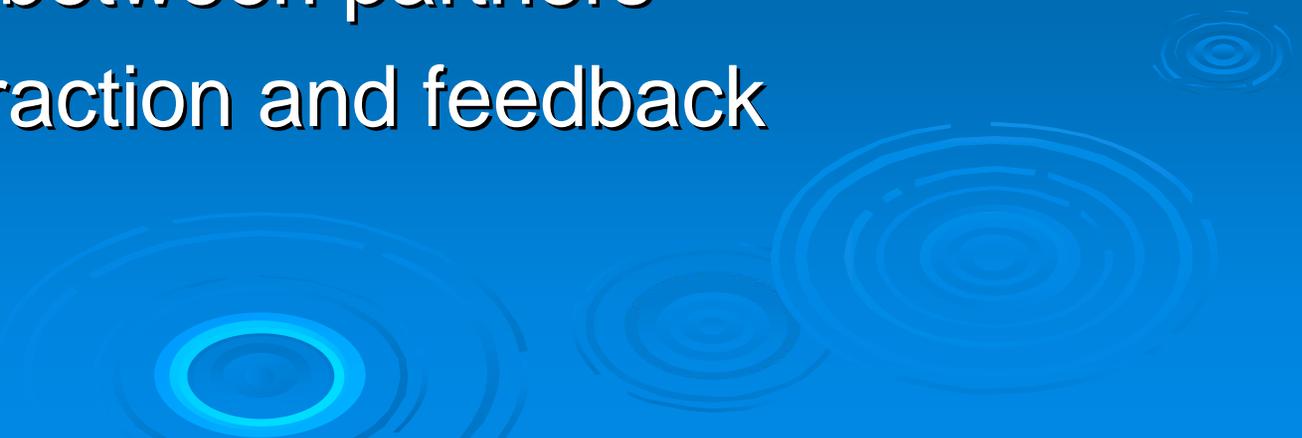
Fiat

- Fiat is Latin for “let it be done.”
- It is the assumption that the affirmative team’s plan is going to be put into effect.
- This avoids reducing debate to a question of WILL Congress pass and put the plan into operation.
- Generally derived from the would “should” in the resolution.
- Fiat is DURABLE

Speech Order and Responsibilities

- Speeches are divided into constructives and rebuttals.
- Constructive speeches are used to build the arguments.
- The rebuttals are used to solidify the position taken by each team and convince the judge.

Different Circuits

- Different circuits have different formal rules and informal expectations and guidelines.
 - Speed
 - Attire
 - Prompting between partners
 - Judge interaction and feedback
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Benefits of Debate

➤ Critical Thinking Skills

➤ Research Skills

➤ Organizational Skills

➤ Oral Communication Skills

➤ Career Skills

➤ Knowledge of the World

Notable Former Debaters from Various Fields

- ❖ **Hillary Rodham Clinton**, Senator
- ❖ **Alan Dershowitz**, noted attorney and Harvard law professor
- ❖ **Lyndon Johnson**, President of the United States
- ❖ **Michael Mazarr**, Analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies
- ❖ **Richard Nixon**, President of the United States
- ❖ **Theodore Roosevelt**, President of the United States
- ❖ **Antonin Scalia**, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court
- ❖ **Nadine Strossen**, President of the ACLU
- ❖ **Laurence Tribe**, Preeminent Constitutional Law Scholar