

The Four Stock Issues

Topicality

Defining the topic of the debate and arguing within the boundaries of the topic

Definitional: Define your terms at the beginning of the debate (The meaning of the resolution can be greatly changed by the definitions used).

Resolutinal: The affirmative plan must stay within the boundaries of the resolution (they can't call for something not called for).

- Affirmative team has to be topical to win the round, and has the burden of proof on this issue.

Inherency

The affirmative team must prove that the harm is caused by the status quo and can only be solved by the changes they prove

Existential: The harm will continue because the problem will continue to exist

Structural: The structure of the status quo will cause the problem to continue

Attitudinal: Societal attitudes will prevent a solution to a problem

Significance

The affirmative has the burden to prove why we need a change from the status quo

Scope: The number of people affected by the problem

Magnitude: The degree to which the people are affected

Social: Shows how the problem affects all of society

Traditional: Argument based on precedent or tradition

Moral imperative: Argument based on fairness, honesty, justice, or compassion

Solvency

The affirmative team's solution must solve the significant harms of the status quo

Elimination: The affirmative team could say that the problem will be completely eliminated, but in most debates they are not able to eliminate every problem of the status quo

Comparative advantage: Must prove that their plan will either reduce the existing problem or prevent an increase of the problem in the future and therefore has strong advantages over the status quo

Maximizing goals: Argues their plan will maximize the goals of the existing policy (the good of the status quo is increased by their plan)

**The affirmative must prove all four stock issues
The negative needs to disprove only one stock issue**