

attention to the inherency element of your case but would not hold it against you that it was present.

In every first affirmative speech, you present your affirmative plan. The length of the plan can range from one to ten or twelve sentences. In general, the affirmative plan answers the following questions: (1) What will be done?; (2) Who will do the plan?; (3) How will funding—if necessary—be provided? In some instances the plan is very simple (as in cases where you are proposing to abolish some existing policy). In other instances some significant elaboration might be necessary (if, for example, you are proposing the creation of a national health insurance system).

There is no rule saying where in the first speech the plan must be presented. In some case structures, the plan is presented early in the speech, whereas in others it might come near the end.

A *traditional need case* addresses each of the three middle stock issues (significance of harm, inherency, and solvency) in arguments called *contentions*. The significance of harm contention makes a claim about what is wrong now. The inherency contention describes what is wrong with the efforts of the present system to resolve the harm. The solvency contention claims that the affirmative plan will resolve all or part of the harm. Under each contention there are usually sub-contentions, each of which must be supported with authoritative quotations.

Sometimes debaters use the term *observation* in place of *contention*. Even though the two terms mean essentially the same thing, *observation* best fits a situation in which the argument seems especially obvious or indisputable.

Following is an example of a traditional need case structure:

*Plan: The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will establish a single-payer national health insurance system such that the federal government will be responsible for all health care payments to health providers. HHS will establish a system of cost controls based upon fair market estimates. Funding for national health insurance will be derived from a tax on all employers.*

*Contention I: Many Americans lack adequate health care because they are uninsured.*

- a. Millions of Americans are not covered by health insurance.*
- b. Millions of Americans forego proper health care because of the lack of insurance.*

*Contention II: The present employment-based health insurance system is inherently flawed.*

- a. Americans who are unemployed will never be covered by an employment-based health insurance system.*