

best be met by adopting the affirmative plan. In this case structure, the goal is often presented in an opening observation. Following is an example of a goals/ criteria case:

Observation: Access to health care is a basic human right.

- a. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights establishes a basic right to health care.*
- b. Access to health care is essential to the pursuit of happiness.*

Plan: The United States federal government will establish a universal health care system based on the British model. Funding will be provided by increasing income taxes.

Contention I: A universal health care system best meets the goal of health care for all Americans.

- a. Millions of Americans are now denied access to health care.*
- b. An employment-based system for providing health insurance is inherently flawed.*
- c. The British model has demonstrated the capability to ensure quality health care for all.*

In each of the foregoing case structures, the affirmative team has addressed the stock issues of significance of harm, inherency, and solvency. What about the other two stock issues (topicality and desirability)? There was a time when affirmative teams were expected to offer definitions of terms in the first affirmative speech. This is no longer a common practice. Instead, the affirmative team waits for the negative team to challenge topicality. If the negative team doesn't offer any topicality argument, the case is presumed to be topical. If, however, the negative team does challenge the topicality of the affirmative case, it is imperative that the affirmative fully answer the argument.

The same procedure is followed for the desirability stock issue (the question of whether advantages outweigh disadvantages). It is up to the negative team to offer disadvantages. The affirmative team must then answer these disadvantages and show they are either untrue or are outweighed by affirmative advantages.

FURTHER READING

Herbeck, Dale. *Paradigms of Debate*. Indianapolis, IN: National Federation of High Schools, 1988.