

its technical support to China. Consumers may, however, have difficulty explaining their problem to a person who is not a native speaker of English.

Employers or employees? Employers could more efficiently go about their business if they didn't have to worry about the numerous regulations of the federal government's Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA). Employees, however, might be exposed to many more dangerous chemicals if OSHA regulations were lifted.

Young or old? Older Americans would immediately benefit if Medicare would decrease the enrollment fees and co-payments now required for prescription drug programs. Younger Americans would, however, be paying higher payroll taxes to fund the improvements in any drug program for senior citizens.

National or international? Some actions that benefit Americans can disadvantage people in developing countries. The low prices in big box retail stores can come at the expense of child labor or prison labor in China.

Community or individual? Individual rights are often expensive. Ensuring a fair trial for an accused murderer can often cost millions of dollars. A medical malpractice lawsuit can raise the cost of medical care for everyone in the community.

Quantity or quality? Many more Americans could go to college if admission standards were loosened and tuition charges were slashed. The quality of education would, however, suffer as colleges would have to offer remedial courses and reduce spending on equipment and faculty.

Life or liberty? The United States could prevent all the deaths now associated with automobile accidents by banning cars. This savings would, however, come at a great price in reduced freedom to travel.

Economy or environment? The economy benefits from the use of cheap fossil fuels and lax regulation of industrial emissions. Protection of the environment can require just the opposite—shifting to renewable energy and strict regulation of industrial pollutants.

Most of the topics selected for public forum debate have been resolutions of policy. Consider the following example: "Resolved: That the private ownership of handguns should be banned in the United States." Policy resolutions can best be analyzed by using the following stock issues:

- **Significance of harm**—What problems are created by handgun ownership?
- **Causation**—What causes handguns to be any more harmful than, say, hunting rifles or kitchen knives?
- **Solution**—Would banning handguns solve the problems?
- **Disadvantage**—Would the problems caused by banning handguns outweigh the problems caused by handgun ownership?