

given above; explaining what is accepted as 'international trading of pollution permits' in a debate proposing such a scheme). What debaters cannot do is use the word 'model' as some sort of link between the motion and what is in fact a different or much more limited case. A team proposing 'This House believes that low taxes are preferable to extensive government services' cannot say 'our model involves only providing free healthcare upon means-testing' any more than it could say it was only going to debate the motion with respect to means-tested healthcare. This would be arbitrarily restricting the motion and little different to 'squirreling' or 'policy debating'. The same would be true of a team that said 'our model is the United States presidential election in 2000' when proposing 'this House would break unjust laws in democracies' or that said 'our model is setting up a worldwide system of national identification cards' when proposing 'This House would compromise civil liberties in the interest of security'. Models cannot justify failing to debate the issue posed; they are best used to flesh out a proposed solution in a 'change debate' and, even then, must be reasonable if they are to form a basis for the debate.

(c) Criteria

The standard of reasonableness is no less important when the Proposition puts forward criteria for assessing the truth of a motion. This often occurs in 'judgement debates', when the Proposition's task is to judge a particular subject favourably or unfavourably, and the Opposition has to challenge that judgement.

A judgement debate often has the word 'is' in the motion. For example, 'This House believes that there is too much money in sport' is a judgement debate. One of the first tasks of the Proposition is to set up criteria (some form of 'measuring stick') by which the subject can be judged. In this debate it will not be enough to show that there is a lot of money in sport; the Proposition must show there is 'too much money'. How can we judge when money in sport has become 'too much money'? The Proposition could suggest criteria such as when the traditional values of sport become corrupted (fair play ideals; playing being more important than winning). The Proposition would then argue these criteria have been satisfied (the media and sponsors support winners; athletes resort to drug-taking and playing when injured; even at amateur level, the behaviour of side-line supporters shows the corruption of fair play ideals).

In a judgement debate, the Opposition may argue one or all of the following:

- (a) the Proposition's criteria are not appropriate (sport has always been competitive and the Proposition is mythologising the idea of playing being more important than winning);
- (b) the Opposition has better (i.e. alternative) or additional criteria for judging the issue, and these criteria have not been satisfied (There is too much money in sport if it negatively affects sport's popularity and enjoyment derived from it. Money in fact allows for better sporting events seen by more people; it helps standards in sports improve);
- (c) even taking the Proposition's criteria, their arguments are incorrect (media and sponsors demand fair play; sports are taking action to deal with the few who engage in drug-taking and similar practices; people play sports at the amateur level for enjoyment of the game).