

transport and failings in these areas further prove why it is wrong to suggest the consumer rather than the state should pay for such commodities.

The Opposition's decision to broaden the debate rather than just accept the Proposition's restriction will depend on how much it can say about the Proposition's chosen subset (if it knows a lot and believes the Proposition's case is weak, it may be better to concentrate on demolishing the Proposition rather than having to set up and defend other examples). It will also want to consider the effects of broadening the debate on the Proposition (while the Opposition has to cover more ground, so too does the Proposition, which may be rattled by the by-passing of its definition and may not know a lot about the other areas raised by the Opposition).

(d) 'Even If'

The fourth option for the Opposition is to both reject and accept the definition. This is called an 'even if' case and involves:

- (a) rejecting the Proposition definition as unreasonable and explaining why;
- (b) putting up an alternative (and reasonable) definition, then proceeding to advance arguments and examples based on this;
- (c) rather than ignoring the Proposition's arguments and examples on the basis they derive from an unreasonable definition, arguing that 'even if' the Proposition's definition was reasonable, its arguments and examples do not prove what is alleged.

This is sometimes known as the 'you're wrong, and even if you're right, you're wrong' case. Historically, 'even if' debates were more likely to arise in Australian competitions, where the Opposition had an equal right of definition.

While this option avoids the danger of rejecting the Proposition's definition, only to have the adjudicator uphold it, the 'even if' case requires the Opposition to cover a lot of ground. There are three separate issues to be argued: the definitional debate, the Opposition's case and the Proposition's case (rejecting the definition involves the first two; broadening the debate blends the last two). The adjudicators will have to judge both teams over each of the areas they tackle (the Proposition might decide to rely on winning the definition, or could reply with 'even if the Opposition's definition is correct' counter-arguments of its own).

In addition to the quantity of argument involved, an 'even if' case has the further disadvantage that it makes the Opposition's definitional challenge appear less pressing. If the Opposition can argue on the Proposition's terms, and indeed wants to hedge its bets on the Proposition's definition being found unreasonable, how vital was it to clog up the debate with an inevitably tedious and protracted definitional tussle? An 'even if' debate is almost always less advantageous than one of the three options set out above.

4. CONSTRUCTING CASES