

Definition: Prostitution should be legal within registered brothels and nowhere else. City authorities should undertake the process of registration within a regulatory framework set forth at the state level. Registration should require regular drug and STD testing of prostitutes. Registration will also ensure the safety of prostitutes who cannot currently report abuse by pimps or customers because they are engaged in an illegal activity. There would be a zero-tolerance policy toward soliciting in any area other than registered brothels. The costs of running the associated health checks and policing would be met by taxing this now-legal activity.

Such a definition allows plenty of room for debate, and everyone in the debate has a clear idea of what the discussion will be about. The definition gives the rest of the Affirmative team a reasonable proposition to take forward rather than requiring them to defend all of the difficulties that a more general amnesty would create (the Negative can't just say that the Affirmative is in favor of nightwalkers and criminals). It also gives Negative plenty of issues to raise—for example, the morality of the state raising revenue from prostitution; the failure of the state to address the underlying social pressures that have women turning to prostitution; or the very real possibility of cheaper, unregulated, and untaxed prostitution continuing regardless of the law, thus further marginalizing those least able to defend themselves.

In presenting the definition, there's one final tactical point the First Affirmative should be aware of. The belief endures among inexperienced debaters that waiting as long as possible before revealing the definition is beneficial. Presumably, this strategy is meant to put the First Negative at a disadvantage because it reduces the amount of time he has to pull together the details of the Negative case. Ignoring for the moment that such an approach is scarcely sporting, it is also self-defeating. First Negative may not be able to write anything down, but neither can the adjudicator come to grips with what's being proposed. In effect, all this approach does is eat into the amount of time First Affirmative has to build her definition in the minds of the adjudicator.

First Affirmative

THE CHALLENGE

Compared with other speakers, First Affirmative has the least leeway in how she performs her designated role. This can make it difficult to make a lasting impression on the adjudicator, and, because of the more technically specific nature of the role, it is easier to be