

Using our example of socialized medicine, the negative might choose to accept the affirmative's description of government payment and claim that government payment increases the demand for health care, which results in long waiting times and even rationing. This argument is related to a feature that the affirmative team introduced. The final argument we will discuss introduces additional or alternate features the negative might use.

Demonstrate effects of the alternative features of the object. Earlier we noted that the negative might choose to describe features of the object other than those the affirmative introduced. After describing these alternate features, the negative would then demonstrate a causal relationship between those and some effects. Of course both of these steps point toward evaluating the object differently than did the affirmative.

For our socialized medicine example, the negative might describe yet another feature of socialized medicine, namely, the simultaneous existence of private medical care systems. For instance, in the United Kingdom private medical care systems exist alongside the socialized health care system. At this point, the negative team must link this new feature to some effect. The negative could argue that "the simultaneous existence of private and socialized medical care leads to a two-tiered system of health care, one for the rich and one for the poor." In the case of the United Kingdom, the debaters might argue, the private health care system is superior to the socialized system. As a result, not only do wealthy patients flock to the private arena, but the best doctors are more likely to go there as well.

In summary, the negative can include in its overall argument certain positions with respect to causal relations. First, it can argue that the affirmative's features are not related to the effects suggested. Second, the negative can demonstrate that other effects are related to the features the affirmative did suggest and, finally, it can demonstrate effects of features other than those the affirmative suggested. Again, the negative arguments are not really complete until they address the issue of evaluation that we will look at next.

ARGUMENTS WITH RESPECT TO EVALUATION

Recall that the final step in creating an argument supporting a proposition of value is the actual evaluation. You would use the same process for creating an argument opposing a value proposition. The negative has several options for completing its argument; we discuss three of them below: associating other values with the affirmative effects, showing that the affirmative value is not really important, and associating values with negative effects.

Associate other values with the affirmative effects. One way the negative can argue against a proposition of value is to start with the effect the affirmative suggested and show how different values are associated with it. Doing so can be particularly telling when the values point in a different direction from those the affirmative named.

Recall that in our earlier example the affirmative team argued that socialized medicine reduces unnecessary surgery. The implication is that doctors have the incentive to do fewer surgeries because they do not receive monetary rewards for