

With a comparative policy resolution, the affirmative is responsible not merely for outlining the advantages of a policy but also examining the interaction of two policies and ultimately demonstrating the superiority of one policy over the other.

After brainstorming and research, the next task is to decide which specific advantages to include in the case. Once this decision is made, the team then begins to outline each advantage. The affirmative should choose the strongest advantages of the harms reduction policy and pair them with the disadvantages of the law enforcement strategy. Thus, the affirmative case would be theoretically structured in the following way:

- I. The affirmative plan achieves advantage A by eliminating problem B:
 - a. Describe the feature of the negative plan that is meant to address problem B.
 - b. Describe the reasons why the negative strategy does not achieve advantage A.
 - c. Describe the feature of the affirmative plan that deals with problem B.
 - d. Describe the reasons why the affirmative plan achieves advantage A.

Each affirmative argument could follow the same structure as the first. To illustrate using the resolution at hand, the affirmative case might be constructed as follows:

- I. The affirmative plan is a superior method of reducing the problems associated with drug use.
 - A. Law enforcement strategies define drug users as criminals.

Law enforcement strategies define drug users and sellers as criminals. By the very nature of “law enforcement,” drug use must be defined as against the law and drug users must be defined as criminals.
 - B. Defining drug users as criminals is counterproductive.

Placing drug users in prison with persons who have violated drug laws, as well as with others who may have committed even worse crimes, introduces them into a criminal subculture. Upon release from prison, drug users frequently cannot find productive employment, so they remain a part of the criminal subculture, relying on the street skills and contacts they made in prison to survive.
 - C. The affirmative plan replaces criminalization with socialization.

Rather than sending drug users to prison, the affirmative plan considers them a part of society needing protection. Thus, the affirmative plan creates other solutions such as education, rehabilitation, and, when necessary, drug maintenance programs.
 - D. Socialization is superior to criminalization.

Education, rehabilitation, and drug maintenance programs have a much greater chance of success than criminalization.