

The debater now describes some condition of the plan that is logically opposed to the condition of the negative policy.

- D. Relate that condition to some effect. By drawing a causal relationship between the affirmative policy and some positive effect, the affirmative case proves that the affirmative policy is comparatively advantageous to the negative policy.

In the end, debaters must identify what arguments a resolution demands because the nature of the proposition logically calls for it. In summary, teams should conceptualize their affirmative case by asking questions that critically compare harms reduction and law enforcement policies. They should identify an aspect of the law enforcement strategy that causes negative effects and show opposing conditions of the harms reduction policy that relates to some positive outcome. This process of conceptualizing the case, before constructing it and its advantages, ensures that debaters prepare cases that can prove a resolution true. After some research and logical restructuring of the case, the affirmative will create an effective case proving the resolution.

CONSTRUCTING ARGUMENTS AGAINST PROPOSITIONS OF COMPARATIVE POLICIES

To understand how to construct arguments against a comparative policy proposition, debaters need to consider the stance of the negative team. Only then can they begin to construct arguments to support the negative case.

STANCE OF THE NEGATIVE

In the proposition we are discussing, the negative is assigned to defend some plan of action consistent with a law enforcement strategy. Because the resolution calls on the negative team to support a policy, they will, in all likelihood, want to present a counterplan. Just as the affirmative outlines their plan of action in a case for a simple policy proposition, the negative may want to provide a similar outline of their plan.

As we mentioned in reference to the affirmative case construction, the negative team may also choose to structure their case according to the need-plan-benefits structure. Team members could start by outlining the reasons for fighting drug abuse, then continue providing a clearly defined plan of law enforcement and, finally, focus on the advantages of the law enforcement strategy as compared to the policy of harms reduction.

CONSTRUCTING THE NEGATIVE CASE

The negative can prepare its case using the same steps as the affirmative: conceptualize the case, develop a plan, and construct the advantages. Thus, using our example, the negative would identify the major elements of law enforcement policies and determine how these differ from harms reduction policies. The team might focus on aspects of criminalization and socialization as the central features