

ALSA UNPAD 2012 Debate Training

# Casebuilding

# Discussion Topics

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- Defining motion (Definition)
- Deciding the content of your case (Themeline)
- Finding your line of argument (Teamsplit)
- Art of teamwork in casebuilding

# DEFINING MOTION

# Government – Defining Motion

- Defining keywords of the motion

Ex:

THW Ban Celebrities from Taking Part in  
Political Campaigns

Taking part = Stating publicly that they support  
specific political figure, using their influence  
in garnering support

# Government – Defining Motion

Set limitations/ contexts of the debate

- Be explicit

Don't just state it indirectly through your examples

- Explain why you choose that particular context

Ex: If in previous motion you set it in the developed countries then explain why you choose it

- Justify why you need to set any context in that motion

Ex: Explain that the political condition in developed and developing countries are different thus not stating it might trigger confusion to the debate

# Opposition – Defining Motion

There are 3 possible scenarios:

- Valid definition (fair definition and set up)
- Unfair definition (truistic or squirreling)
- Unfair limitation/ context

# Opposition – Defining Motion

Unfair definition □ **Challenge definition**

- Be explicit in stating it and provide alternative definition
- Justify why you do it
- Respond government's case that's relevant to the alternate definition
- Provide **even-if** analysis (what the government could have said regarding your definition)

Gov: even-if analysis = why you would still upper hand if you accept opposition definition and possible cases for opposition if they follow your definition

- Explain why your definition is more appropriate for the motion

# Opposition – Defining Motion

Unfair limitation/ context ☐ **accept the definition but expand the context**

- Explain why the limitation is not suitable
- Explain why the limitation can be harmful towards the debate

Ex: THBT Racial Profiling is Effective in the War against Terrorism



# **DECIDING THE CONTENT OF YOUR CASE**

# Types of Motions

There are 3 types of motion:

1. Philosophical (value judgment) motion
2. Proposal motion
3. Open motion

# Philosophical Motions

A motion that requires you to **prove a certain idea, NOT a certain policy/ action**

EX:

THBT Prostitution Degrades Women

# Government – Philosophical Motions

- Provides criteria/ parameters

Ex: Degrade women = objectifying women role as tool that can be utilized by men

- Justify why the criteria is valid

Ex: Explain why objectification women role to only sex object undermine the idea that women and men are equal

- Proves why what the motion fits with the criteria/ parameters

Ex: analyze why prostitution = objectifying women = degrade women

# Opposition – Philosophical Motions

Two options:

Reject the criteria □ reason why the criteria doesn't meet with the motion □ set the new criteria □ prove why the motion doesn't meet with the criteria

Ex:

State that the idea of objectifying women is really subjective and depends on individual perspective □ can't be measured □ can't be the parameter

State that the parameter is more suitable to doesn't leave any option for women □ explain why prostitution doesn't fall into that parameter

# Opposition – Philosophical Motions

Accept the criteria ☐ prove why the motion doesn't meet with the criteria

Ex:

Explain why prostitution doesn't objectify women as tool that can be utilized by men

# Proposal Motions

A motion that requires you to **prove that a certain policy/ action should be taken AND that a certain idea is right**

EX:

THW Ban Prostitution

# Government – Proposal Motions

- Present a problem

Ex: There's a huge number of women prostitutes whose basic rights are violated thus degrading them as women

- Put forward a proposal

Ex: Banning prostitution □ explain in what form the banning should be done (banning brothels and all forms of sex trade)



# Government – Proposal Motions

- Prove why the proposal will address the problem  
Ex: Explain how banning prostitution can significantly **REDUCE** the problem
  - Prove that the proposal won't create greater harm or that the harm created is minor compared to the proposal's benefit  
Ex: Argue how prostitution will enable women to achieve their basic rights better and opted for more sustainable job options
- OR
- Acknowledge that the proposal will sacrifice certain women's choice to have a job or body autonomy but it will let them to opt for more sustainable jobs and not prone to many mistreatments by pimps or customers

# Opposition – Proposal Motions

Three options:

1. Disagree that the problem exists
2. Acknowledge the problem exists but the proposal doesn't address the problem
3. Acknowledge the problem exists, proposal might work, but it might cause greater harm than SQ

# Open Motions

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A motion that gives you the **maximum liberty**  
**to define a motion**

EX:

THBT It Is Time for Less Government

# Government - Open motions

Define it according to the:

- Potential clashes of values that might occur
- latest issue that are relevant (more specific)
- general ideas that are relevant (more general)

# Opposition – Open Motions

- Make a potential list of possible definitions along with your stances for every possible definition
- Prepare yourself to be very flexible during the debate □ don't stick with what you have prepared, be ready to scrap your case if it's necessary

# **FINDING YOUR LINE OF ARGUMENT**

# METHODS

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There are two methods:

- (1) Methodical questioning
- (2) Knowing who you are

# Methodical Questioning

**Linking back** a specific idea to a bigger picture  
(goal of the motion)

- Finding out the most direct impact
- Linking it to a particular principle or ethical standard



# Knowing Who You Are

- (1) **Choosing the perspective** of actors that you want to use for defending the motions
- (2) **Finding out other potential stakeholders** to extend your case

Ex: THW Legalize Marijuana

# **ART OF TEAMWORK IN CASEBUILDING**

# The elements

- Individual's Time vs. Team Time
- Preparing First Speaker's Speech
- Devil's Advocate
- Timekeeping
- Bench Communication

# EXERCISE

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THBT Feminists Should  
Support Hijab

# DEBATE

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THS the Legalization of SOPA  
and PIPA Bills