

# LINCOLN-DOUGLAS Debate Planner

## AFFIRMATIVE CONSTRUCTIVE (Allotted time: **4** minutes)

Introduction: *Are the judges ready? Is the timer ready?*

EXORDIUM:

NARRATIO:

Good morning, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I stand

FOR the resolution: \_\_\_\_\_.

### Observation 1: **Definitions**

1.

Source:

2.

Source:

3.

Source:

4.

Source:

### Observation 2: **Value**

My value is \_\_\_\_\_.

Explain:

### Observation 3: **Criterion**

The criterion we will use to measure \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_  
(restate value)

Expand explanation as needed:

## TIPS

*EXORDIUM: Start with a quote relevant to the resolution & particular to your value, from a Founding Father, philosopher, or other notable or historical person.*

*Explain the quote and get the attention of your listeners.*

*Introduce yourself and explain why you affirm/deny the resolution.*

*Define all the important terms in the resolution to show that your case is on topic.*

### WHAT IS A VALUE?

*A value is an ideal; something considered "good", worth striving for. A good value premise answers the "who cares" and "so what?" questions. It links the various arguments together on truth.*

*Explain why the value you have chosen is important to society.*

*CRITERION is how the value is defined or is achieved. The criterion provides a link between your value and your arguments. It's the key to winning. It's the mechanism by which you weigh the values at stake and ultimately come to the conclusion. (You can have more than 1 but change to criteria.)*

Observation 4: Contentions

*In affirming the resolution, I offer the following contentions:*

1. Contention I:

a. Warrant/Evidence

Source:

b. Impact

2. Contention II

a. Warrant/Evidence

Source:

b. Impact

3. Contention III

a. Warrant/Evidence

Source:

b. Impact

Conclusion:

*In conclusion, I have shown you that...*

OR

*For these reasons, I urge the judges to AFFIRM to resolution, “ \_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_.”*

*Thank you, I now stand ready for Cross-Examination. (1 min) (P5)*

TIPS

*Contentions support your claim and explain why your value and criterion are important. They are your arguments/proofs.*

*Each contention is a **separate argument** for or against the resolution. These are presented in constructive speeches and extended (build on) throughout the debate.*

*Contentions can be facts, quotes, stories and examples. Use quotes from Founding Fathers, philosophers, the U.S. Constitution, etc.*

*Consider all 3 modes of persuasion: logos, ethos, pathos. Use evidence that shows all 3.*

*After you have chosen a value and criterion, choose contentions:*

- 1) *Introduce the Claim: Provide a “tag” or title” (Cite all evidence)*
- 2) *Introduce the Warrant: The reason your claim (evidence) is true. You may have multiple sub points. “According to...”*
- 3) *Provide Evidence/Info*
- 4) *Explain the Impact: “This important to the resolution because...”, “This supports the value because...”*

*Conclusion: Two-three sentences wrap-up about your whole speech and why your value is greater.*

**NEGATIVE CONSTRUCTIVE** (Allotted time: **5** minutes)

Introduction: *Are the judges ready? Is the timer ready?*

EXORDIUM:

NARRATIO:

*Good morning, my name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I stand*

*AGAINST the resolution: \_\_\_\_\_.*

Observation 1: Definitions

- The negative accepts the affirmative's definitions. **OR***
- The negative accepts the following affirmative definitions: \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_, *but defines the following terms:*

1.

Source:

2.

Source:

3.

Source:

Observation 2: Value

*The Affirmative's value was \_\_\_\_\_, but I propose \_\_\_\_\_*

Explain:

Observation 3: Criterion

*The criterion we will use to measure \_\_\_\_\_ is*  
(restate value)

Expand explanation as needed:

**TIPS**

*The negative case is much shorter you should spend about 1/2 of the allotted time laying out the negative constructive case. The remainder of the time needs to be spent attacking the affirmative case.*

*Introduce yourself and explain why you deny the resolution.*

*Definitions: define your terms in advance of the debate. During the affirmative speech, check-mark the ones you agree with and circle the terms you wish to dispute during the Negative Constructive speech..*

*VALUE: propose an alternate, more important value and criterion.*

*If you find that you agree with the Affirmative value, you should present that and your better criterion for measuring it. Present your own criterion & contentions. Argue against the Affirmative's contentions.*

*CRITERION is how the value is defined or is achieved. The criterion provides a link between your value and your arguments.*

Observation 4: Contentions

*In negating the resolution, I offer the following contentions:*

4. Contention I:

a. Warrant/Evidence

Source:

b. Impact

5. Contention II

a. Warrant/Evidence

Source:

b. Impact

Response to the Affirmative Case:

1. Affirmative Contention 1: *The affirmative said:* \_\_\_\_\_

*BUT,* \_\_\_\_\_

QUOTE:

Source:

2. Affirmative Contention 2: *The affirmative said:* \_\_\_\_\_

*BUT,* \_\_\_\_\_

QUOTE:

Source:

3. Affirmative Contention 3: *The affirmative said:* \_\_\_\_\_

*BUT,* \_\_\_\_\_

QUOTE:

Source:

Conclusion:

*For these reasons, I urge the judges to REJECT to resolution, “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”*

TIPS

*Contentions support your claim and explain why your value and criterion are important.*

*(See additional general tips for Contentions in the Affirmative section sidebar.)*

*The negative speaker doesn't need to defeat every point in the speaker's case. The strategy should be to defeat one or more observations:*

- 1) *Definitions: AFF definitions are too broad or nebulous to support healthy debate. More precise definitions would cause AFF arguments to fall outside the resolution.*
- 2) *Value: The AFF value is NOT the one we should hold most highly. NEG can provide an alternative value and argue for supremacy.*
- 3) *Criterion: NEG can accept the AFF value, but argue need for different criterion to measure it.*
- 4) *Contentions: AFF contentions do not correspond to the moral claim being made. AFF case lacks sufficient evidence or logical connections to make the claim.*

*Conclusion: 2-3 sentences wrap-up about your whole speech and why your value is greater.*

*Thank you, I now stand ready for Cross-Examination. (1 min) (P5)*

## TIPS

### Cross-Examination

*To ask the opposing Speaker questions to clarify their arguments and expose weaknesses.*

### Rebuttals

- *Open & Conclude rebuttal with introduction & thanks*
- *Briefly restate opponent points*
- ***Spend majority of time on your best argument, rebuilding your case & leaving a strong impression on the judge***
- *Provide additional support for the importance of the value*

*Address disputed definitions as needed*

*Explain why AFF value is more important than the NEG value*

*Restate the standard for meeting the value (s/b the same as in AC argument).*

*Refute each argument made by NEG speaker & explain why AFF arguments are still valid in light of what NEG side argued.*

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## CROSS EXAMINATIONS (Allotted time **1** minutes)

Possible questions from the NEG to the AFF:

- Would you please repeat your definitions? (can be specific ones only or all of them)
- Why is this value the most important one to consider?
- What evidence did you use to prove that this moral claim is valid?
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Possible questions from the AFF to the NEG?

- Did you accept the definitions?
- Why do you think your standards are a better way to measure the value?
- What evidence did you use to prove that this moral claim was not valid?
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## 1st AFFIRMATIVE REBUTTAL (Allotted time: **2** minutes)

*Are the judges ready? Is the timer ready? My name is \_\_\_\_\_,*

*and I stand IN FAVOR of the resolution: \_\_\_\_\_.*

Definitions:

Value:

Criterion:

Refutation:

*In conclusion, ...*

**NEGATIVE REBUTTAL** (Allotted time: **4** minutes)

*Are the judges ready? Is the timer ready? My name is \_\_\_\_\_,*

*and I stand AGAINST the resolution: \_\_\_\_\_.*

Key Points of Disagreement:

Final NEG Case:

Weaknesses in AFF case:

Summarize NEG case:

*In conclusion, ...*

**2nd AFFIRMATIVE REBUTTAL** (Allotted time: **3** minutes)

*Are the judges ready? Is the timer ready? My name is \_\_\_\_\_,*

*and I stand IN FAVOR of the resolution: \_\_\_\_\_.*

Response to NEG Rebuttal:

Summarize AFF Case:

*In conclusion, ...*

**TIPS**

*LAST CHANCE for NEG to speak!*

*Tie everything together for judges to see that AFF has not made a strong enough argument for the moral claim.*

*Show why the NEG value is more important.*

*Explain why NEG arguments are stronger in light of what the other speaker said.*

*AFF speaker gets the last word in the round.*

*Identify the key points of disagreement between the NEG & AFF positions.*

*Provide additional support for the importance of the value (try not to keep restating the same points).*

*Confirm that AFF's moral claim will be the standard (criterion) outlined.*

**Remind the judges what is at stake if the moral claim is not upheld.**