



2023 Team Policy Debate Intent of the Resolution

CCA develops its Team Policy Debate Resolution with the expectation that debates conducted under it will address the specific policy area covered by the selected topic. The language of the resolution has been crafted to make clear the intent of the CCA Debate Rules Committee as to what are, and what are not, acceptable grounds for debate. In an attempt to clarify the intent of the resolution, refine student research, and avoid confusion and the disappointment of losing topicality rulings, this letter of clarification is provided.

The CCA Team Policy Debate Resolution for the 2023 tournament season is as follows:

Resolved, The United States Federal Government should reform its domestic policy or policies for the agricultural production of food in one or more of the following: crop subsidies, concentrated animal feeding operations, or production of genetically engineered foods.

“You know, I’ve always thought that when we Americans get up in the morning, when we see bacon, eggs, toast, and milk on our breakfast table, we should give thanks that our farmers are survivors. You are the real miracle workers of the modern world—keepers of an incredible system based on faith, freedom, hard work, productivity, and profit—a system that feeds us and sustains millions of the worlds hungry.” President Ronald Regan, October 15, 1982.

Let’s face it, everyone must eat. The war in Ukraine has brought into sharp focus just how many countries and individuals rely on that region’s output of agricultural products for basic nutrition. While the United States is generally self-sufficient in terms of being able to feed its population, other countries also rely on our ability to export agricultural products. However, federal bureaucratic involvement in the domestic agriculture industry is deep and comprehensive. Can sustainable management of agricultural food production in the United States help businesses and consumers reduce the cost of critical commodities, conserve resources for future generations, and provide enough output to ensure good nutrition for our country and other nations abroad?

Special note:

Many different federal agencies administer regulations for food production for different reasons. These agencies include The Food and Drug Administration, The Environmental Protection Agency, The Food Safety and Inspection Service, and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, just to name a few. Please note that the resolution term *“agricultural”* applies to the phrase *“production of food”* and NOT the phrase *“policy or policies.”* Affirmative Teams must restrict their proposed reforms to a policy or those policies for the *“agricultural production of food”* in one or more of the three areas stated regardless of which federal agency administers that policy.

Judge Instructions:

Judges will be instructed in the following manner regarding topicality:

The affirmative team must satisfy the following regarding topicality. (Whether or not the plan’s reforms succeed is a question of solvency, significance, or inherency.)

- ***The United States Federal Government***
- ***must attempt to reform***
- ***its domestic policy or policies for the agricultural production of food in one or more of the following:***
- ***(1) crop subsidies, (2) concentrated animal feeding operations, or (3) production of genetically engineered foods.***

The affirmative case must satisfy all four points to be a topical case. If the affirmative case does not satisfy these points, it is not topical. The affirmative team should enter the round prepared to show how and why their case fulfills the resolution. In the event of a topicality challenge, the affirmative must *convince the judge* that their case is topical. It is not enough that you believe it to be so.

Debaters are encouraged to study closely the *“Policy Debate Criteria & Competitor Standards”* regarding the terms “Extra Topicality” and “Effects Topicality” to ensure that they apply these terms and the competition criteria described in this document appropriately as needed.