

# Appendix A

## Debate Resolutions

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Preliminary phrases such as “This House would” (THW), “This House believes that” (THBT), “Be it resolved that” (BIRT), or “Resolved:” come before a debate resolution. The first two are seen mostly in parliamentary style debate, “THW” implying a policy debate and “THBT” signaling a values debate. The last two are found in academic, discussion, and cross-examination styles.

As you read each of the resolutions, think about the type of debate it suggests. Is it a values debate involving competing principles? Or is it a policy debate involving a set of needs for change and a plan of action? In some cases, you’ll find that the resolution can be spun into either a values debate or a policy debate.

Think also about the variety of issues that could fall under each resolution. Debating multiple areas is usually beyond the scope of one round. You may find it necessary to narrow the resolution so that a more focused debate can take place. You’re also encouraged to modify, flip around, or come up with a spin-off of the resolution to create the type of debate you want.

### SPORTS

Commercialization has improved the Olympics.

Professional boxing should be banned.

Sports teams should be held responsible for mischief by their fans.

Women’s and men’s sports teams should receive equal support.

International sport has a place in international politics.

Professional athletes are paid too much.

Sports entertainment should not be considered sport.

## EDUCATION

School uniforms limit diversity and creativity.  
Standardized tests should be eliminated.  
Single-sex schools are preferable to co-ed schools.  
Students learn more from their peers than from their teachers.  
Private schools should receive government funding.  
The school discipline system needs reforming.  
Year-round schooling should be implemented.  
Students should have a say in how schools are run.  
There is too much emphasis on marks.  
Post-secondary education should be publicly-funded.  
The government should subsidize foreign educational experiences.  
Home-schooling is an acceptable alternative to traditional schools.  
Learning a second language should be mandatory.  
Parents should play a major role in the operation of schools.

## CULTURE

Museums and theatres should fund themselves.  
Hollywood has negatively influenced our culture.  
Minority language rights are worth protecting.  
Foreign cultural influences should be restricted.  
The government should censor the arts.

## SOCIAL

Parenting lessons should be mandatory.  
Life has become too competitive.  
The people are not as tolerant as they think they are.  
Celebrities should also be role models.  
The advertising of alcohol should be banned.  
The feminist movement has failed.  
Private groups should not have the right to discriminate.  
Children should never be spanked.

## MEDIA

Journalists should not use confidential sources.  
The entertainment media has a negative influence.  
The more free the press, the more free the people.  
All broadcasters should be private organizations.  
The media has a social responsibility.  
The number of television advertising minutes should be limited.  
Restrictions should be placed on video game violence.  
The government should impose domestic content requirements.

## TECHNOLOGY

The government should regulate Internet content.  
There should be a fee for each e-mail sent.  
Internet 'blogs' are legitimate journalism.  
Internet chat is harming our young generation.  
Technology has gone too far.  
Computer technology can solve our problems.

## SCIENCE

Space exploration is a waste of time and money.  
Scientific research should be available for public use.  
Space tourism is a worthwhile objective.  
Genetic engineering has a positive impact.  
The patenting of pharmaceuticals should be ended.  
The government should not fund commercial science.

## DEMOCRACY

Dictatorship is preferable to anarchy.  
A noble dictator is superior to a selfish democrat.  
Police and intelligence powers should be limited.  
Public security is more important than individual rights.  
Prisoners should have the right to vote.  
Children should not have a right to privacy.  
Hate speech should not be considered free speech.

Citizens should be allowed to initiate binding referenda.  
Medical professionals should have the right to strike.  
Civil disobedience is a legitimate expression of democratic will.  
Individuals have too many rights and freedoms.  
The minimum voting age should be lowered.

## POLITICS

Publicly-funded healthcare is a human right.  
The business of government is business.  
A national identity card should be implemented.  
Campaign funding should be more strictly regulated.  
The present government should compensate victims of past abuses.

## ECONOMY

Progressive taxes should be replaced by single-rate taxes.  
Farmers and ranchers should receive subsidies.  
The national debt should be paid off faster.  
Public corporations should be privatized.  
The rich pay too much tax.  
The minimum wage should be abolished.

## ENVIRONMENT

Global warming is the enemy.  
Capitalism and environmentalism cannot co-exist.  
National parks should be protected against tourism.  
Recreational fishing and hunting should be prohibited.  
Recycling should be mandatory.  
Endangered species should be protected.

## INTERNATIONAL

Multilateralism is preferable to unilateralism.  
The threat of force is the best way to create peace.  
There should be a 'Marshall Plan' for Africa.  
A 'strike first' policy should be used to confront enemies.

The United Nations should have a military.  
The United Nations has been a failure.  
The testing of nuclear weapons should be banned.  
Following orders is no excuse for committing war crimes.  
Stable dictatorships are preferable to unstable democracies.  
Universal human rights do not exist.  
Political assassinations are justified acts of war.

## LAW

The death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment.  
Punishment is more important than rehabilitation.  
Criminals have too many rights and freedoms.  
Torture is never justified.  
Let a hundred guilty go free if it saves one innocent.  
Jury duty should be optional.  
Criminals should serve their full sentences.  
Court trials should be televised.  
Illegal immigrants should receive criminal treatment.  
Judges have a role to play as social activists.  
Criminal trials should be decided by a judge alone.  
The justice system is too soft on criminal activity.  
Drunk drivers should be banned from driving permanently.  
Criminals should not be allowed to profit while in prison.  
Young offenders should be tried as adults.  
An unjust law should be broken.  
The law should protect people from themselves.  
Driving while talking on a cell phone should be illegal.

## GENERAL

People should obey rules over their consciences.  
Individuals have no impact on the world.  
The entrepreneur is more important than the artist.  
It is preferable to be right than to be successful.  
Chance has a greater role than choice.  
Conviction is more honorable than consensus.  
Authority should always be questioned.  
The family is more important than the government.

Leaders are responsible for the actions of their teams.  
Knowledge is gained through experience.

## OPEN

Open debate resolutions shouldn't be taken literally. If they are, they're bound to be abstract beyond tangible debate. This type of resolution requires the Affirmative team to link the resolution to a more concrete issue, which allows it to present virtually any case that it wants. The Negative team must respond based on the definition presented, making it next to impossible to prepare for the debate in advance.

Wag the dog until the wolves come out.  
The pen is mightier than the sword.  
The egg came before the chicken.  
The Yankees deserve respect.  
McDonald's is the way of the future.  
The cow should be milked dry.  
Apples should not be compared to oranges.  
There is no black and white, only shades of grey.  
Silver is good, but gold is great.  
Roses are red, violets are blue.  
It's music to the ears and food to the soul.  
The chicken has to cross the road.  
The right to be wrong is a right.  
Good fences make good neighbors.  
The end is within reach.