



# Essentials of Lincoln-Douglas Debate

It's about Values...  
but everything is

# The Basics

Value Debate (propositions of value)...

Talk about...

justice

ethics

morality

freedom

education

right/wrong

love (ok, not often, but srsly)

# Topics (Change every 2 months)

September/October:

*In a democracy, voting ought to be compulsory.*

Another example:

*Civil disobedience in a democracy is morally justified.*

# Time and Format

Aff Constructive (6 min)

Neg CX (3 Minutes)  
Neg Constructive (7 min)

Aff CX (3 Minutes)

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The "NO NEW ARGUMENT" Line

Aff 1st Rebuttal (4 min)

Neg Rebuttal (6 min)

Aff 2nd Rebuttal (3 min)

# Some quick thoughts...

## Formal debate:

- defined times to speak,
- traditional ask-and-answer cross examination

## No Presumption:

- The “How you determine the winner” is determined in the round.
- No “Status Quo”

# Two Levels of Debate: #1 - The Frame

## The Framework (Standards):

- What is important?
- How do the judge determine a winner?  
Quantify/Qualify the Value
- What are “limits” of debate?
- What do the terms mean?

**[VALUE]**

**[Criteria/Standard]**

**[Observations]**

**[Definitions]**

# Two Levels of Debate:

## #2 The Contention

### The Contention Level:

- How we PROVE our point - reach goal  
(Remember, the goal is the VALUE)  
(The simplest path is the CRITERIA)
- Facts, quotes, evidence
- Two types of case structure:

The Ladder

The Luggage

# Debate is Debate, even in L-D

## ARGUMENT

Claim - Analysis - Warrant

(Claim - {analysis} Warrant - Impact)

(Claim - Evidence - Analysis {W - I})

- A Statement
- Reasons, Facts, Ideas that support the statement
- Weigh and Link the Evidence/Facts/Ideas
- Why this statement matters in the round



# Debate is Debate, even in LD

## Rebuttal means Clash!

- An argument stands until addressed (strength of the argument is different)
- An argument that has been addressed does not bypass the roadblock by Re-statement
- Counter claims have (CAW-I)

# Debate is Debate, even in L-D

## Cross Examination Matters

- It is the only chance to see interaction
- It is the most informal
- It is where the judge will figure out what was said - Processing Point (good and bad)
- It is where limits and standards are clarified
- It is where groundwork is laid



# Lincoln Douglas Debate

IS NOT  
ABOUT A PHILOSOPHER  
ABOUT A PHILOSOPHY

L-D is Philosophy  
- Scott Woodhouse

# In a Democracy, Voting ought to be Compulsory

Value:

Contention I

Criterion:

Contention II

Observation:

Contention III (???)