



Motion Analysis

Basic Ideas

- + Motion is what the debate should be about.
- + The proposition side must uphold the motion.
- + The opposition side must oppose the motion
- + Proposition must interpret the motion so as to create a good debate.
- + Proposition teams who attempt to define the motion to make it much smaller or easier for them to win will be punished.

Types of Motions

- + Different types of motions have different obligations and requirements.
- + Many types, but this scheme may help you understand.
- + FACT: Something is or is not.
- + VALUE: Something is of inherent worth.
- + POLICY: Something should be done.

Motions of Fact

- + Something is or is not true.
- + Very much like a court – guilty or not guilty, a factual determination.
- + THBT advertising does more harm than good for society. Weigh the facts.
- + Need a standard to determine who wins.
- + Preponderance of evidence.
- + True beyond a reasonable doubt.

Motions of Value

- + Something is or is not of inherent value.
- + THBT Shakespeare is the world's greatest writer.
- + Locate the value term and then define it to determine how to win the debate.
- + "Greatest writer" is
- + Without a clear definition of this term the debate will be a mess.
- + Definition should be reasonable but favorable.

Motions of Policy

- + Something should be done. Action – government, international, individual.
- + THW legalize prostitution.
- + Proposition needs a model – how they would do this.
- + Relevant detail – who, what, how, who pays?
- + Build the model anticipating the opposition arguments.
- + Must show model addresses a problem and reduces it.
- + Some detail, but not too much.

Other Matters

- + Might be in more than one category.
- + Make it international, not local.
- + Agent might be specific, like “developing nations” or such.
- + Anticipate interpretations when you are opposition.

What type of motions are these?

- + —THW execute convicted war criminals.
- + —THBT humanity will not reach the 22nd Century.
- + —THBT state-run media cannot serve the function of a free press.
- + —THBT it is wrong to eat whales and sharks.
- + —THBT Deng Xiaoping was a greater Chinese leader than Mao Zedong.

More...

- + —THBT viewing violent media leads to violent behavior.
- + —THBT parents should not hit their children.
- + —THBT NATO is an outdated institution.
- + —THBT standardized testing is the enemy of learning.
- + —THW require all candidates for national office to undergo lie detector tests with questions submitted by their opponents.