

Dear CCNW Debate Participants,

CCNW develops its Team Policy Debate Resolution with the expectation that debates conducted under it will address the specific policy areas covered by the selected topic. The words in the Resolution have been crafted to make the intent of the CCNW Board clear as to what are, and what are not, acceptable grounds for debate. The purpose of this letter is to further clarify the intent of the CCNW Board and assist participants prepare for and engage in productive debates while avoiding unnecessary Topicality rulings.

The Resolution for the 2011-2012 CCNW Team Policy Debate Season is:

“Resolved that the United States Federal Government should substantially reform or abolish its policies covered by the Commodities, Nutrition and/or Crop Insurance Titles of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.”

The intent of this year’s Resolution is to foster debate about critical elements of the US Federal Government’s involvement in United States farm policy. The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 is divided into 15 titles, three of which have been selected for debate during the 2011-2012 CCNW debate season.

Title I: Commodities and Title XII: Crop Insurance are often referred to as the farm safety net. Debates over policies under one or both of these Titles are expected to address the appropriateness and desirability of US Federal Government financial support and protection of agricultural enterprises.

Title IV: Nutrition covers domestic food and nutrition programs such as those that develop local farm markets, provide public education about nutrition, and provide commodity distribution programs to low income families, such as food stamps. Debates over policies under this Title are expected to address the proper role of the US Federal Government in setting nutritional standards and goals, and implementation of policies designed to achieve the stated goals.

Judges Instructions

Judges will be instructed in the following manner regarding Topicality:

In order for an Affirmative Case to be found Topical, the Affirmative Team must demonstrate a legitimate and reasonable attempt to accomplish each of the items presented below. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the Affirmative Team to be prepared to defend their position with respect to each of these points.

Affirmative Cases under this Resolution must:

1) Propose to “*substantially reform or abolish*”...The intent of this language is that the Affirmative proposal be important enough, of sufficient merit, that a diligent Negative could reasonably anticipate it and thus be prepared to debate it. Trivial, inconsequential changes should not be proposed.

2) “*policies covered by*”...The intent of this wording is to allow debates over the policy areas addressed by the selected Titles, rather than limiting debate to the provisions as they were specifically set forth in the reference law. It is possible, and even likely, that certain provisions of the law have been modified by subsequent legislation. Thus, the intent is for debates to address current policies as opposed what may be outdated provisions.

3) “*the Commodities, Nutrition and/or Crop Insurance Titles of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008*” is listed as P.L. 110-246 and is commonly referred to as the “Farm Bill”. Farm Bills are items of Federal legislation encompassing most important aspects of agricultural sector of the US economy and have been historically enacted every 4-6 years in order reauthorize, update, revise and add new provisions. The 2008 Farm Bill is due for reauthorization during FY 2012. The selected Titles are clearly defined sections of the law and Affirmative Cases must propose specific reforms directly related to one or more of these Titles.

The goal of CCNW is for the debaters to engage in Topical debates (ones falling within the topic area intended by the League) over the Significance, Inherency and Solvency (the Policy issues) of the Affirmative Case. To be allowed to engage in a productive debate, the Affirmative Team must present a case that demonstrably fulfills all of the requirements listed above. In the event of a Topicality challenge it is the duty of the Affirmative Team to convince the judge that their case fulfills all of these requirements. It is not sufficient that the Affirmative Team believe their Case is Topical. They must address each point of the Topicality challenge and demonstrate to the judge they have satisfactorily fulfilled their responsibility.

Finally, with regard to the Negative Team, consistent with published CCNW rules, CCNW expects all Negative Teams to respect the Topicality ruling and raise Topicality challenges only when they are personally convinced that the Case being presented by the Affirmative Team truly fails to meet one or more of the requirements set forth above.

Respectfully Issued By,

The Christian Communicators Northwest Board