

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 to prepare for and engage in productive debates while avoiding unnecessary Topicality challenges.

The Resolution for the 2015-2016 CCNW Team Policy Debate Season is:

*"Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially reform the qualitative and/or quantitative requirements for permanent and/or temporary lawful entry into the United States."*

Special Note: The Resolution above is shortened for brevity for speeches. The intent of the language is hereby clarified such that the full, official Resolution includes, *"specifically who may lawfully enter the United States, what numbers of people may lawfully enter the United States, and under what conditions."*

The intent of this year's Resolution is to foster debate about the Federal Government's policy for lawful entry into the United States. Many Americans believe our policy is in need of a major overhaul. Some believe we should be much more restrictive and allow far fewer immigrants and/or those entering on a temporary basis. Others believe we should allow many more. Still others believe that the problems are not with the numbers, but with the types and groups of people that are either allowed or excluded. It is important to recognize and remember that the intent of this Resolution is the formulation of good policy concerning lawful entry into the United States. Issues related to unlawful entry into the United States are not Topical.

"qualitative...requirements", "who may lawfully enter". These elements of the Resolution are intended to refer to types and categories of prospective lawful entry applicant(s) and may relate to geographic areas, countries, ethnic or religious groups, education levels, or skills or capabilities, or other similar characteristics that distinguish individuals or groups from one another.

"quantitative ...requirements", "what numbers of people may lawfully enter". These elements of the Resolution are intended to address numerical quotas or limitations on lawful entry. Generally these numerical quotas are related to the different individuals or groups addressed in the paragraph above.

"under what conditions" There are many reasons why foreign nationals may desire to lawfully enter the United States. These may involve economic, family, social, political, religious or other factors. The circumstances of an individual or a group of prospective lawful entry applicant(s) can be extremely important to whether or not lawful entry is treated favorably or unfavorably in such circumstances.

## **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” 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. To ensure no confusion arises on the matter, complete abolishment of any restrictions on immigration and/or a total prohibition of immigration can be considered substantial change and are permissible.
- 2) “the qualitative and/or quantitative requirements” The intent of this wording is to require debates to address immigration policy in such a way that it will directly affect specific, identifiable individuals or groups of prospective lawful entry applicant(s) in clear and obvious ways.
- 3) “for permanent and/or temporary lawful entry into the United States” The intent of this wording is to require debates to address some aspect of legal immigration. As noted above, policy concerning unlawful entry is intentionally excluded.

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