

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 is, and what is 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 2009-2010 CCNW Team Policy Debate Season is:

"Resolved: The United States Federal Government should substantially reform or replace its income tax policy for individuals as covered under Title 26 of the US Code."

The intent of this year's Resolution is to foster debate about the US Federal Government's taxation of the income of individuals. Title 26 of the US Code is entitled "Internal Revenue Code" and covers a variety of aspects of US tax policy. While there are many parts to Title 26, only those parts dealing with policy related to the taxation of income of individuals is included within the Resolution.

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 replace...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. Furthermore, the "or replace" language provides the Affirmative Team with the latitude to entirely eliminate the current Federal individual income tax system and replace it with an alternative of their choosing.

2) U.S. Federal Government Policy as covered under Title 26 of the US Code...Title 26 of the US Code provides the legal foundation and framework for the Internal Revenue generated for the US Government. Debaters are restricted to proposals that reform or replace policy currently embodied in Title 26. It is not the intent of this Resolution topics for debate be restricted only to Subtitle A – Income Taxes, as other important aspects of current income tax policy for individuals, may be found in other parts of Title 26, such as Subtitle F – Procedure and Administration.

3) Income Tax Policy for Individuals...Title 26 covers a variety of taxes, including non-income taxes. The Affirmative proposal must be directed toward reforming or replacing some aspect of the US Federal Government's income tax policy for individuals.

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 come with a case that demonstrably fulfills all three 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 three of 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.