

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE
AFFIRMATIVE/NEGATIVE CASE FORMAT

AFFIRMATIVE CASE FORMAT

- Start with a hook, generally a quote that supports your side
- "Because I agree with _____ I stand in affirmation on the resolution _____"
- Offer definitions of terms in the resolution
- "My value for this debate will be _____. I have chosen this value because..."
- "My criterion for this debate will be _____. I have chosen this criterion because..."
- Provide a roadmap
- Your affirmative case should have between 2-4 contentions using the claim, warrant, impact format.
- Conclude the case by saying "It is for these reasons that I affirm. I now stand open to cross-examination."

NEGATIVE CASE FORMAT

You will probably want to take some prep time before reading your case to work on the 1st Negative Rebuttal.

- Start with a hook, generally a quote that supports your side
- "It's because I agree with _____ that I stand in negation of the resolution _____."
- Only offer definitions if you disagree with the affirmatives definitions
- "My value for this debate will be _____. I have chosen this value because..."
- "My criterion for this debate will be _____. I have chosen this criterion because..."
- Provide a roadmap
- Your negative case should have no more than 3 contentions, 2 are ideal
- After you finish reading your negative case, you say, "I will now move on to attacking my opponent's case." Then proceed to do so.
- Conclude by saying, "It is for these reasons that I negate. I now stand open to cross-examination."

CROSS EXAMINATION TIPS

- Do not face your opponent, face the judge during CX.
- Ask short questions. The longer the question the more you waste time and the longer your opponent will need to answer.
- Don't be afraid to cut your opponent off in mid-answer. Don't let them control your CX.
- Conclude the CX by saying "Thanks for your answers."