

*Fill-in-the-blank Constructive speeches for you*

**\*\*YOU WILL ACTUALLY SAY THE ITALICIZED WORDS!**

*According to* \_\_\_\_\_, “ \_\_\_\_\_.”  
SOURCE QUOTE or STATISTIC or COMPELLING WISDOM for intro

*Because I agree with this (idea, sentiment, expressive wisdom, etc.), I seek (support, negation of today's resolution:*

**RESOLVED:** that \_\_\_\_\_

*For the purposes of today's debate, I offer the following definitions from*

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Source: book, author, author qualifications, year published, page number etc.)

**Definition 1.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition 2.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Definition 3.** \_\_\_\_\_

Etc. (Define as many words in the resolution that are necessary. Be sure to stay within the “Spectrum of Reasonability”)

*The VALUE I wish to uphold in today's debate is* \_\_\_\_\_  
(use search engines or any number of value handbooks to find a suitable value.)

*According to* \_\_\_\_\_ **this value is important because** \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of philosopher or source)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Offer a quote/description/explanation to support the importance of the value. Offer valid reasoning to support why you have chosen THIS PARTICULAR VALUE to support/negate the resolution.)

*In order to know whether or not we have achieved the value, it is necessary to establish a standard by which to judge the resolution. These standards are called criteria and my criterion for today's debate is* \_\_\_\_\_  
(Use the Nolan “Criteria Choices” to start you on your journey! EXPLAIN the criterion [1 stand] that supports the value. The contentions “feed the criterion, the criterion “feeds” the value, and the value “feeds” the resolution - all under one big umbrella!)

Explain the criterion: \_\_\_\_\_

In order to justify the (Affirmative/Negative - choose ONE!), it is necessary to establish three (AFF)/ two (NEG) basic contentions:

My first contention is \_\_\_\_\_

GREEN BOX ARGUMENT FULLY DEVELOPED

My second contention is \_\_\_\_\_.

GREEN BOX ARGUMENT FULLY DEVELOPED

My third contention is \_\_\_\_\_.

GREEN BOX ARGUMENT FULLY DEVELOPED

So, because (restate labels of contentions), I ask you to (affirm/negate) today's resolution and concur that

## THIS IS A GREEN BOX

Each contention "gets" a **GREEN BOX**.

(Affirmative has 3 **GREEN BOXES**; Negative has 2 **GREEN BOXES**.)

A. **LABEL** - "tag" or "slug" your contentions/arguments: Use brief phrases, short sentences in the Noun-Verb or Noun-Verb-Noun patterns.

(Ex. "Restrictions in on civil liberties create second-class citizens.")

"Freedom of expression is not absolute.")

Ask yourself, "What does this label mean?" -----

B. **STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION**

(Answer with "What this means is..." or "In other words...")

Ask yourself, "Why?" -----

C. **GIVE THE LOGIC AND THEORY BEHIND THE ARGUMENT.**

(Answer with, "Logically, when we...")

D. **EVIDENCE** (1-2 pieces)

Use evidence with the sources that RECONFIRM LOGIC.

(if the evidence "says it all," then you probably skipped "C".)

E. **EXPLAIN THE EVIDENCE**

("What Dr. Cantu is really pointing out exposes..." or

"Using the AMA findings, the quality of life determines...")

F. **\*\*OPTIONAL\*\* ILLUSTRATE** ... clarify, NOT justify!

G. **SUM UP ARGUMENT** ("Because...")

H. **TIE CONTENTION INTO THE VALUE PREMISE AND RESOLUTION**

Since this final part tests whether or not your criterion "feeds" the value and thus supports the contentions, this component is the final analysis of your creation and thus, the most difficult part of the argument to write!

**DO NOT SKIP IT!!**

("And thus, liberty becomes license and...")