

Principles of Debate Preparation (November 2023)

Topic: Student Loan Forgiveness

THREE DEBATE BURDENS

1. **Burden of Proof**
“Those who assert must prove.”
2. **Burden of Refutation**
“Silence is admission.” or “By not refuting, you are agreeing.”
3. **Burden of Rejoinder**
“Answer the answer!” or “Repeating is not rejoinder.”

WRITING ARGUMENTS (Burden of Proof!)

In the simplest form, we can understand an argument to be a statement supported by one or more pieces of evidence. We organize our evidence into arguments with a significant enough impact to make the audience want to vote in our favor. Here is the math: Argument = Statement + Evidence.

Argument Outline (SEE-IT):

Statement: Statement = [Debate Topic] + *will...* + [what it does (based upon the evidence)].

Elaboration: Elaboration = *Because...* + [Explain by summarizing the Evidence (Taglines)].

Evidence: Evidence = *For example...* + [2-3 Pieces of evidence (TSFC)].

Illustration (or Impacts): Impacts = *Imagine...* + [Describe by summarizing the evidence Impacts*].

*We try to make the impact numeric (generalized) so the impacts can later be compared.

Transition: Transition = *Therefore...* + [Debate Topic] + WILL + [what it does (same as above)].

Here is an Example... “Wasting Money (CON)”

[S] *Student Loan Forgiveness will... waste money.*

[E] *Because...* the program is so massively mismanaged, which will require tremendous cuts to both education and social programs.

[E] *For example...*

First... Program Mismanagement Creates Costly Mistakes

S: According to... NPR News, July 29, 2022

<https://www.npr.org/2022/07/29/1114560119/student-loan-program-cost>

F: It states... The GAO reports a \$311 billion difference between what student loans should cost, due to program mismanagement and changes to the income-driven repayment plan.

C: This means... attempting to forgive student loan debt has been a disaster and far more costly than had previously been predicted – wasting hundreds of billions of dollars.

Also... Government Income is Severely Reduced

S: According to... Slate Magazine, March 24, 2021.

<https://slate.com/business/2021/03/student-loan-total-annual-government-payments.html>

F: *It states...* each year the government collects around 70 billion dollars from student loan repayments of which 20 billion dollars is the interest.

C: *This means...* forgiving student loan debt will cause millions of people to suffer due to significant budget cuts, which will likely include education funding and social programs.

[I] *Imagine the following impacts...* millions of people will suffer as scholarships and other educational programs are reduced due to budget cuts. Millions more will suffer as there will be less money for social programs. This trade-off will ruin many lives!

[T] *Therefore...* student loan forgiveness will waste money.

“Our next argument is...”