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. <mark>**Burden of Rejoinder**</mark>
   "Answer the answer!" or "Repeating is not rejoinder."

REJOINDERS vs. REJOINDERS (Burden of Rejoinder!)

At the very end of the debate there is a two minute "Final Focus" speech given by the two second speakers. Previously, these speakers had refuted their opponent's arguments. They must defend those rebuttals in order to make those rebuttals count in the debate. First speakers must defend their arguments and second speakers must defend their rebuttals. After defending the rebuttals, the second speaker will present the "Voting Issues" for their side.

VOTING ISSUES (After Rejoinders)

At the very end of the debate there is a two minute "Final Focus" speech given by the second speaker of each team. Hopefully the second speaker has spent at least some of their two minutes (approximately 40 seconds) defending their rebuttals. Now, in the final minutes/seconds of the debate, the second speaker from each team will explain their arguments as a reason for the judge(s) to vote for their side of the debate. The following outline will help debaters to organize their voting issues into a compelling end to the debate.

Voting Issues Outline (Choose-Convince-Compare):

We think the most important argument is… [Name of the Argument].

because… [Briefly state 'why' you believe it is so important].

So… [List several "impacts" to show how many lives will be made better by voting for your side].

   1.) First…

   2.) Also…

   3.) Finally…

Therefore, [Debate Topic] *will…* [Restates the Argument].

Here is an Example… "Wasting Resources (CON)"

We believe the most important argument is... Wasting valuable resources.

Because... cancelling student debt will eliminate hundreds of billions of dollars in loan repayments and will require severe cuts to vital social programs.

So...

1. Hundreds of millions of people will suffer from significant harm to the economy as goods and services become much more expensive due to increased inflation.

2. Tens of millions more will suffer when there may be less money for job retraining, and food assistance.

3. $1.6 trillion dollars is a massive amount of money that will no longer be available to finance better, more targeted solutions.

Therefore... Student Loan Forgiveness will waste resources.

"The next argument I will defend is…"

[or] "So, for all these reasons, please vote for the CON. Thank you."