



2019 Team Policy Debate Intent of the Resolution

CCA develops its Team Policy Debate Resolution with the expectation that debates conducted under it will address the specific policy area covered by the selected topic. The language of the resolution has been crafted to make clear the intent of the CCA Debate Rules Committee as to what are, and what are not, acceptable grounds for debate. In an attempt to clarify the intent of the resolution, refine student research, and avoid confusion and the disappointment of losing topicality rulings, this letter of clarification is provided.

The CCA Team Policy Debate Resolution for the 2019 tournament season is as follows:

Resolved, The United States Federal Government should substantially increase the percentage of total revenue that is derived from indirect taxation.

Some seeds of The American Revolution were planted with dissatisfaction over tax policy in the English colonies. In drafting The Constitution of the United States, the founders purposefully vested in the congressional representatives of the people the power to tax. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution states that *“The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.”* The intent of this year’s resolution is to foster debate about those United States federal policies that are designed to generate revenue. Further, the resolution is meant to include debate about specific sources of revenue.

Special note:

The resolution is not intended to include debate concerning reforms to the current system of payroll taxes and the resulting impacts to Social Security and Medicare. Specifically, the “Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA)” taxes that are collected from employers and employees are intended to be excluded from the resolution. ***Students must avoid presentation of any affirmative reform or negative argumentation advocating for or against changes to policy concerning revenue derived from payroll (FICA) taxes or impacts that might occur to the trust funds that are supported by these collections.***

Judge Instructions:

Judges will be instructed in the following manner regarding topicality:

The affirmative team must satisfy the following regarding **topicality**. (Whether or not the plan’s reforms succeed is a question of solvency, significance, or inherency.)

- The United States Federal Government
- Attempt to substantially increase the percentage of total revenue that is derived from indirect taxation.

The affirmative case must satisfy both to be a topical case. If the affirmative case does not satisfy both of these points, it is not topical. The affirmative team should enter the round prepared to show how and why their case fulfills the resolution. In the event of a topicality challenge, the affirmative must *convince the judge* that their case is topical. It is not enough that you believe it to be so.