



2020 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 2020 tournament season is as follows:

Resolved, The United States Federal Government should reform the War Powers Resolution of 1973 as amended or its policy for the authorization for the use of military force.

The Constitution of the United States gives Congress the power declare war and grant “letters of marque” (to authorize the use of military force) while it names the President of the United States as the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. Whether or not the United States goes to war is perhaps one of the most important decisions our elected leaders can make. The shared responsibility and various checks and balances envisioned by the framers regarding this decision have been discussed and considered many times throughout our history.

Special note:

The War Powers Resolution of 1973 was passed over the veto of President Richard Nixon near the conclusion of the Vietnam War. This act can be clearly defined by its citation in U.S. Code as The War Powers Resolution of 1973 (as amended), 50 U.S.C. 1541–1549.

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 reform The War Powers Resolution of 1973 as amended**
- **or its policy for the authorization for the use of military force.**

To further clarify the intent of the CCA Debate Rules Committee, it should be understood that Affirmative Teams can choose to propose reforms to both The War Powers Resolution of 1973 and the policy for the authorization for the use of military force or they can choose to propose reforms to one or the other. Affirmative Teams are not required to propose reforms to both but can choose to propose reforms to both and still satisfy topicality.

The affirmative case must satisfy these points to be a topical case. If the affirmative case does not satisfy 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.