Debate “Briefs”:
The First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Brief: reduces a lot of information into an outline of “essential argumentative elements” of the proposition

- Define a brief
- Format of the brief for the 1st Affirmative Constructive Speech of an academic debate

Affirmative: Advocators of a CHANGE in the status quo
Negative: Supporting the status quo (opposing the Affirmative)

What is a Brief?
- It reduces a lot of information into an outline of “essential argumentative elements” of the proposition
- Includes:
  - the arguments you plan to make
  - the evidence you plan to use to advance those arguments
  - An outline (mostly using standard outline form)
  - The first Affirmative constructive speech (brief) will definitely be used

Basic Elements of the
Affirmative Constructive Brief

- Front matter
- Case:
  - There is a Problem
- Plan:
  - How we will Solve the problem
- Solvency
  - Advantages of adopting the plan
  - Workability/Feasibility
Affirmative Debate Brief Format (this is how you would write & say it)

Introduction: (Word for word; SHORT; not overly dramatic)

Resolved: (Statement of resolution)

Observation I: Definitions (Define key words in the resolution, and any other words necessary to understand the Affirmative case)

A. First Definition
B. Second Definition, etc.

Contentions: (This is the Affirmative’s justification for adopting the plan; covers significance, Harms, and Inherency; this is written—and spoken—in outline form)

I. Statement of Harm
   1. More defining statement of harm
      EVIDENCE
   2. More defining statement of harm
      EVIDENCE
B. Continuation/development of harm
II. Statement of Inherency
   A. More defining statement of inherency
      1. More defining statement of inherency
      EVIDENCE
   B. Continuation/development of inherency

Plan: (or implied plan; organized into “Planks”, explain the plan in detail)

I. Agency (who will oversee/administer the plan?)
   A.
   B.
II. Mandates (what, exactly, will the Affirmative plan do?)
   A.
   B.
III. Enforcement (how will the Affirmative make sure the Plan will work?)
   A.
   B.
IV. Funding/Staffing (how will the plan be funded or staffed?)
V. Addendums (optional; is there anything else we need to know about the plan?)

Advantages/Solvency: (What happens if the Affirmative Plan is adopted)

I. Advantage 1 (general statement)
   EVIDENCE
II. Advantage 2 (general statement)
   EVIDENCE

Conclusion: (very short restatement of Affirmative philosophy and request for Affirmative vote)

Processing Time!

- How would you define a “brief”?
- What are the basic elements of the brief for the first Affirmative Constructive speech?
- What is the terminology used for the main points in the:
  - Affirmative “case”?
  - Affirmative “plan”?