

# THE EVEN IF STRATEGY OF WINNING DEBATES

***Its not enough to know the format of  
debate, every team must have a strategy.***

# INTRODUCTION

- The “even if analysis” focuses on analyzing the aftermaths of the policy implementation and showing how undesirable it is.
- We should all acknowledge that you don’t need to oppose everything in order to win a debate .
- So you can actually agree with many things but only disagree on the core.
- The “even if” strategy is one which will give you that leverage to win debates without disagreeing with everything.

# How is the “even if analysis” applied?

- ❑ A team must prove that the problem is bigger than described in the aftermaths.
- ❑ Policy debates. At times a policy is good enough and shall certainly cause a desired change but has terrible results after implementation.
- ❑ In this case, the opponent agrees to the importance of the policy but then rubbishes it for the problems it causes therefore describing it as inappropriate.
- ❑ Here, it will always go like “...I should provide the even if analysis of the case of the opponent”.

- Smart teams usually construct arguments that prove that the policy that is being seconded brings back the same problem the debate is seeking to solve.
- After constructing the even analysis, give a well constructed alternative that's less harmful and all the same suitable for a debate.
- This is the simplest way of destroying a case by:
  - I. ACCEPTING THE PREMISES But
  - II. DENYING THE CONCLUSION.

# KEY QUESTIONS IN THE “EVEN IF “ANALYSIS

*□ What would happen if the model was implemented exactly as your opponent says? Such that you can prove that the problem is more complicated in the aftermaths?*

# Using the even if analysis during preparation time

- During prep time, a lot of ideas about policies come through our minds and most teams deliberately include everything in their case without a second thought especially in respect to the even if analysis.
- Advice would be that you question your arguments and policy using the even if analysis to see whether they would stand after any opposition team chooses to use that as their team strategy to bring them down.

# How do you include the even if analysis to protect your case?

- So we all agree that every coin or case has two sides.
- So , in case construction admit that the policy will have weaknesses but then give emphasis to explaining two things or options
  - a. How you will maybe treat those weaknesses using your case.
  - b. How the advantages or benefits that your case brings can be taken even in presence of such weaknesses. This is called pre emptive argumentation.

NB: I would advise each team to focus on (a) and integrate (b) as an alternative supplement to (a) or where conditions dictate chose only (b).



**GOOD LUCK !**