

The Final Round¹

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Connecticut Debate Association

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Resolved: The US should respond to global warming by instituting a significant reduction in carbon emissions.

A Note about the Notes

I've reproduced my flow chart for the final round at King High School augmented by what I remember from the debate. The notes are limited by how quickly I could write and how well I heard what was said. Others may have slightly different versions. I'm sure the debaters will read them and exclaim, "That's not what I said!" I apologize for any errors, but I hope debaters will appreciate this insight: what a judge hears may not be what they said or wish they had said.

There are two versions of the notes. The one below is chronological, reproducing each speech in the order in which the arguments were made. It shows how the debate was actually presented. The second is formatted to look more like my written flow chart, with each contention "flowed" across the page as the teams argued back and forth. It's close to the way I actually take notes during the debate.

The Final Round

The final round at King School was between the Stamford High School team of Michelle Goldstein and Dan Raymer on the Affirmative and Stamford team of Daniel Paseltinar and Samantha Sye on the Negative. The debate was won by the Negative team.

1) First Affirmative Constructive

- a) Introduction
- b) Statement of the Resolution
- c) Definition: "significant" means a gradual reduction.
- d) A1²: The economic benefits of limiting carbon emissions outweigh the cost.
 - i) Cap and trade ("C&T"³) will stimulate the economy
 - (1) It will create a new market for investment
 - ii) Unemployment is currently 13%

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² "A1" indicates the Affirmative first contention, "N2" the Negative second contention and so forth.

³ Defines "C&T" as an abbreviation for "cap and trade."

- (1) C&T will create new jobs in alternative energy and government supervision
- e) A2: US action will improve our international relations
 - i) The 1997 Kyoto Protocol is a precedent that shows all countries care
 - ii) A US first step will be followed
 - iii) This will help US image and provide diplomatic advantages
- f) A3: It is an essential human responsibility to sustain the environment
 - i) Global warming (“GW”) is an issue
 - (1) The share caused by human activity isn’t important
 - (2) Humans are the only ones who can do anything about it
 - (3) Therefore it is a moral obligation
 - ii) 1990 SO2 initiative shows cap and trade can work
 - (1) CO2 is similar
 - iii) GW harms biodiversity
 - (1) Loss of species moves up the food chain
 - (2) Ultimately humans won’t survive
- 2) Cross-Ex of First Affirmative**
 - a) Did countries cooperate at Kyoto? Yes
 - b) Was Kyoto successful? Countries reached an agreement
 - c) Did Kyoto achieve its goal of reducing CO2 emissions? In part.
 - d) Did Kyoto achieve its environmental goals? Some
 - e) With unemployment at 13% how can we afford the cost? The funds will be made back as they are spent
 - f) How can we be sure if this process will destroy the oil industry? Other jobs will be created
 - g) Have you given any proof of a net gain in jobs? I’m not an expert
 - h) How will the spending be funded? This will be done gradually, over the next 200 years.
 - i) Doesn’t the packet say 40 years? Our approach is gradual
- 3) First Negative Constructive**
 - a) Intro
 - b) Resolution
 - c) N1: The US economy can’t afford a CO2 reduction initiative
 - i) We are in a recession and don’t have the funds
 - ii) Estimates run from \$100 billion to \$1 trillion
 - iii) Action can be delayed until things are better
 - d) N2: There is no feasible way to reduce CO2 emissions
 - i) C&T will raise prices and lower production
 - ii) According to the packet, we will have better technology and funding in the future
 - iii) C&T isn’t even supported by its developers
 - e) N3: Reducing carbon emissions can’t fall on the US alone, it must be a global effort
 - i) Even if US CO2 emissions go to zero no net environmental effect
 - (1) Other countries will raise their output, moving the problem overseas
- 4) Cross-Ex of First Negative**

- a) If the US reduces CO2 emissions won't there be some reduction? Not enough to solve the GW problem
 - b) Doesn't the solution have to start somewhere? Only if it is effective. Any reductions will be compensated for elsewhere.
 - c) Isn't it different if the process is done gradually over time? Then we won't have significant reduction right now.
 - d) How does C&T cause economic harm? CO2 limits lead to reduced production and higher prices
 - e) And your alternative? Wait until technologies are viable and then act.
- 5) Second Affirmative Constructive**
- a) Intro
 - b) Resolution
 - c) N1: Our interpretation of the resolution is to use a gradual approach
 - i) Don't need to spend quickly
 - ii) Maximum spending will be \$175 per taxpayer per year
 - d) N2: If supply falls, demand will not increase
 - i) A fundamental law of economics is that supply and demand equalize
 - e) N3: The Aff agrees that the effort must be global
 - i) In A3 we note US action will inspire others to follow
 - ii) It won't be ineffective, because we have to start somewhere
 - (1) Effects will gradually increase over time.
 - f) A1: C&T promotes capitalism
 - i) A new market means new money to help the economy
 - ii) New program also means new jobs to build and supervise
 - g) A2: We agree with N3
 - i) US needs to act as an example to start a global process
 - ii) US can develop the technology to supply a new global market
- 6) Cross-Ex of Second Affirmative**
- a) What is 1 minus 1? 0
 - b) Isn't there a difference between creating and destroying jobs? It will be a gradual process, one replacing the other
 - c) With fossil fuel industries gone? Fossil fuels are a finite resource anyway.
 - d) Will there be net new jobs? Of course
 - e) To absorb 13% unemployment? Absolutely
 - f) But it could result in a downturn? I didn't say that
 - g) How long will it take for the new jobs to balance out? C&T incentives should help
 - h) But there could be a net downturn? Or upturn
 - i) Aren't we already experiencing a gradual recovery? C&T could provide part of that recovery
- 7) Second Negative Constructive**
- a) N1: The recession means we can't afford this program
 - i) Packet: 2 degrees centigrade will cost 12.9% of global GDP
 - ii) Packet: \$40 trillion per year cost
 - iii) Packet: \$1 spending gets only 2 cents of climate benefit
 - iv) Alternatives exist, such as putting seawater in the atmosphere to create clouds

- b) N2: Aff relies on C&T
 - i) The creator of C&T doesn't believe it will work for CO2
 - (1) Program will be an economic dead weight loss
 - ii) Limiting CO2 output will limit production
 - (1) Oil industry and related jobs most hurt
 - iii) Developing countries need fossil fuels to grow
 - (1) They won't delay development to go green
 - iv) Kyoto failed
- c) N3: Resolution names the US
 - i) Both sides in this debate agree that it requires an international effort
 - ii) How is this going to happen by the US acting alone?

8) Cross-Ex of Second Negative

- a) Isn't oil a finite resource? Yes, but there is a lot left
- b) Are fossil fuels the only source of energy? No, but it's a large part of the US and world supplies
- c) Why will creating a new market hurt the economy? The plan removes a major sector from the economy
- d) Where did we say that? It's implied by the plan to reduce carbon emissions
- e) Does reduce mean eliminate? It means you will lose jobs
- f) Won't new technology create more jobs? Not necessarily. You said it would be a gradual process.
- g) How does the seawater thing work? More clouds reflect more sunlight
- h) How much will it cost? \$20 trillion
- i) Same effect? Yes, but lower cost.

9) First Affirmative Rebuttal

- a) The Neg conceded the need for alternative energy sources
 - i) It's cleaner
 - ii) Even if it is costly now, it will be cheaper and better later
- b) The resolution creates a new market and new jobs for the economy
 - i) This will reduce unemployment
- c) The negative claims we need an international effort, but the Aff plan is about the US
 - i) Other countries will likely follow the US lead
 - ii) Kyoto shows this is true, as US didn't support it
 - iii) Kyoto failure doesn't imply Aff failure due to US action
- d) We won't eliminate the oil sector, hence won't eliminate the jobs
 - i) Create new jobs in green technologies
- e) A1: C&T is positive for the economy
- f) A2: US #2 emitter of CO2
 - i) If we act to reduce emissions other countries will follow
- g) A3: Humanity is at fault here, and we have to correct it.

10) First Negative Rebuttal

- a) The Aff agrees that initially C&T will have a negative impact on the economy
 - i) When will jobs created balance those lost? 50 year from now?
 - ii) No proof C&T will work
- b) On jobs, C&T might result in no net gain, just a shift from one sector to another

- c) Resolution names the US, and doesn't involve the int'l community
 - i) Aff agrees it won't work without global effort
- d) Aff says program is gradual, but it has to start now
 - i) There are no funds to pay for it now
- e) The Aff has given us no evidence for a correlation between GW and CO2
- f) A1: C&T won't benefit the economy as I have explained
- g) A2: Remember Kyoto failed

11) Second Negative Rebuttal

- a) A2 vs N3
 - i) The US has many problems that need money, can't afford to fund this one
 - ii) While US is #2 CO2 producer, even if they reduce emissions to zero it won't affect GW
 - iii) Why will developing countries stop using fossil fuels?
 - (1) Green technology is expensive and untested
 - iv) If program is not international, how will it succeed
- b) Other technologies exists: Seawater to create clouds, CO2 removal
 - i) The atmosphere can recover
 - ii) Half the cost of the Aff proposal

12) Second Affirmative Rebuttal

- a) Golda Meir said, "If you are not looking to the future, you might as well not look at all."
 - i) Must look to the future to benefit our children
- b) The issue is primarily the environment
 - i) There are some economic benefits
- c) The correlation between CO2 emissions and GW is attested to in the packet
- d) N3 says it is an int'l issue.
 - i) The resolution requires we focus on the US
 - ii) But as we point out in A3, other countries will follow the US lead