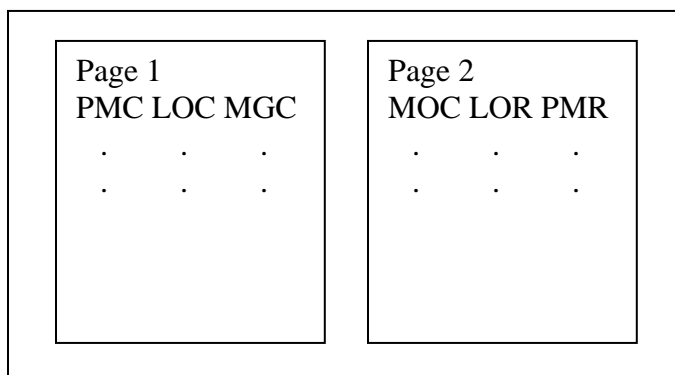


Flow Chart¹ of the Final Round
Connecticut Debate Association
St. Paul Catholic High School, March 1, 2025
THBT we should bring back extinct species.

The final round at St. Paul was between the Joel Barlow team of Owen Fellows and Zach Colangelo on the Government and Hall/Simsbury hybrid team of Eleanor Greenberg Farquar and Raymond Zhang on the Opposition. The debate was won by the Opposition team from Hall/Simsbury.

Format Key

I take notes on an 11” by 14” artist pad. The two pages below are formatted to print in portrait mode on 8 ½ x 11 paper. The first page covers the first three constructive speeches: the Prime Minister’s Constructive (PMC), the Leader of the Opposition’s Constructive (LOC), and the Member of Government Constructive (MGC). The second page covers the Member of Opposition Constructive (MOC), the Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR) and the Prime Minister’s Rebuttal (PMR). The pages are intended to be arranged as follows, which is how my actual flow looks:



In general, the constructive speeches have arguments related to the Government contentions towards the top, and those relating to the Opposition contentions towards the bottom. Some debaters draw a line across the middle to separate the Gov and Opp, but it is hard to judge how much room you need for each until you hear the debaters. I adjust the top and bottom halves best I can.

This flow organizes the arguments logically, not necessarily in the order in which they were presented. Some speakers will deal with Opposition arguments prior to the Government. Some speeches will be completely disorganized, and I place the arguments to best illustrate clash. Accompanying this is a “transcript” version of the debate which presents the arguments in the same order as each speech proceeded.

The chart uses “G1,” “O2,” etc. to refer to the Government first contention, the Opposition second contention and so forth.

Points of Information are indicated by “POI:” and this marker, the question and the answer are in boldface italics.

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Prime Minister Constructive	Leader of the Opposition Constructive	Member of Government Constructive
1) Introduction 2) Statement of the Resolution 3) Definition: “extinct” not living a) “bring back” emphasize keystone species 4) Observation: 3 major extinctions in history a) Meteors, ice age, humans b) Humans have a moral responsibility 5) G1 ² : Moral imperative (“MI” ³) to restore species a) Humans think, feel understand i) See ecological consequences of loss of keystone species ii) In particular, impact on other species b) This implies we have a MI 6) G2: Restoration feasible and beneficial a) Examples i) 2003 Pyrenean Ibex ii) Netherlands rewilds aurochs iii) Reviving the New Zealand Forbes snipe would increase diversity b) Reintroducing wolves to Yellowstone after over-hunting i) Reduced deer population ii) Restored grassland and erosion iii) Benefit rivers, salmon, bears POI: Wolves not extinct, only relocated? iv) Effectively extinct in Yellowstone, brought back from Alaska c) More examples i) California condor ii) Blackfoot ferret d) No harm occurs; restores natural balance 7) G3: Revival helps protect species at risk of extinction a) White rhino only 3 left b) Technology could help save, restore	1) Intro/motion 2) We accept definitions 3) G1: MI? a) Humans hunt, pollute, etc. i) We are the problem! ii) MI to look at ourselves, not play God POI: “not play God” means you wouldn’t develop tech like CRISPR? iii) Learning is not playing God iv) Bringing back the dead is playing God 4) G2: Grey wolves were alive in Alaska, not extinct a) No tech, CRISPR, gene editing b) Humans have moved species around for millennia 5) G3: contrast with O2 a) Better if we use existing species 6) Counterplan: use funds to focus on root cause, human behavior a) E.g. fight wildfires, inform the public, more parks, more conservation 7) Are we ready for a radical change in our behavior?	1) Intro/motion 2) G1: MI and human behavior? a) Humans don’t need to be the problem i) Restoration is the solution b) Not “playing God” any more than using pacemakers POI: How are pacemakers like de-extinction? i) Same basic principle 3) G2: Wolves? a) Example shows benefit. b) If they were extinct, good to bring them back 4) G3: vs. O2, same reply as G2 above 5) Weighing a) Gov: bring back species, fill eco-niche, thrive b) Opp: claims the same, with without de-extinction, how? i) If true, would be happening now c) Root cause: agree it’s humans i) White rhino a good example, ignored by Opp
	1) O1: Ineffective at increasing biodiversity a) 2 to 8 times better to protect existing species i) \$ to restore 1 could save 2 endangered ii) E.g., musk ox, yak, moose vs. woolly mammoth 2) O2: Encourages complacency with respect to endangered species a) E.g., like Mom swooping in to protect children i) “we can just bring them back” reduces respect POI: How else can we save the white rhino? ii) Plan to protect, change our behavior 3) O3: Disrupts current ecosystem a) Process can bring back diseases, retroviruses b) Creates a competition for resources, restore v conserve	1) O1: Use existing species? a) Agree we should do this i) Not possible in all cases ii) Extinct species don’t exist anymore b) Compare to G3, restore tech/methods can protect existing species 2) O2: Complacency? a) We don’t get rid of conservation on Gov POI: What about funds diversion? i) PMC addressed cost effectiveness 3) O3: Disruption? a) Opp has no solvency b) Gov does nothing to harm ecosystems by bringing back keystone species

² “G1” indicates the Government first contention, “O2” the Opposition second contention and so forth.

³ Defines “MI” as an abbreviation for “Moral Imperative”

Member of Opposition Constructive	Leader of Opposition Rebuttal	Prime Minister Rebuttal
1) Intro/motion 2) White rhino? Like wolves, living species, not extinct a) De-extinction not needed for technology to preserve species 3) G1: MI? a) Gov only restores keystone species i) What about all the others? ii) Gov plan is limited, so not MI b) What is best for eco-system better standard i) O1: conservation 2 to 8 times more effective than de-extinction ii) O3: shows negative impact of de-extinction on ecosystems 4) G2: Ibex died after a few months a) Mammoths not needed to clear the landscape i) Could use cows or lawnmowers b) Yellowstone wolves alive, so much cheaper POI: Is CRISPR playing God? When used to cure cancer? i) We are talking about ecosystems ii) CRISPR is about research and applied tech 5) G3: Why no examples of using tech to protect existing species a) It's infeasible, takes a long time b) Better to conserve what we have	1) Existing species will die as funds are diverted to de-extinction a) \$\$\$ to bring back T-rex b) Better to fight wildfires c) Need to deal with the root causes 2) No credible examples of restoration a) Wolves brought down from Alaska 3) O1: Conservation 2 to 8 times more effective 4) O2: Why save existing if we can just "bring them back"? a) Reduces awareness, reduces support 5) O3: A T-rex would destroy the ecosystem a) Playing God threatens civilization b) Gov brings back dominant species c) Better look at what animals need now 6) Real problems need real solutions a) Gov: imaginary solution b) Opp: parks and conservation	1) We agree environmental crisis is bad a) Disagree on solution b) Opp can't bring species back 2) Disease? a) 3 examples of success with no diseases 3) Playing God? a) So is medicine b) So is saving the California condor c) No reason to stop 4) Root cause? a) No reason we can't do both b) Pat head and rub stomach at the same time c) False dichotomy d) No Opp examples showing de-extinction bad 5) Funding a) We can use private investors b) \$200 million in Netherlands project 6) Cost effective? a) Opp says bring back 1 lose 2 b) But Opp doesn't bring back any i) Keystone species show tangible benefits ii) E.g., wolves in Yellowstone 7) Success? a) Ibex, auroch, tech keeps improving b) CRISPR use is "playing God" either way
1) O1: Better return on \$ spent on preservation a) 2 to 8 times more effective 2) O2: Fund both? How? Examples? a) Conflicts with \$ for conservation b) De-extinction less effective 3) O3: Disrupts existing ecosystems by removing a niche a) Risk of old diseases coming back b) Compete with existing species i) Why trade newly de-extinct species for existing species?		