

Yale Osterweis 2026 Motions

Round 1

Motion: This House regrets the narrative that the media holds political figures accountable.

Round 2

BACKGROUND: Nationalization is the process of giving control and ownership over an industry or company to the government. Currently, pharmaceutical companies in the US are privately owned, meaning the research development sale and distribution of drugs and medicine are controlled by private companies led by their owners.

MOTION: This House believes that the US Federal Government should nationalize all pharmaceutical companies.

Round 3

BACKGROUND: We are back in ancient history. You are a young, highly charismatic person. Because of a number of insignificant coincidences, a large number of people believe you are the child of a god and can work miracles.

MOTION: This house believes that you, as the charismatic person, should use the beliefs of your fellow human beings to promote and establish socially progressive norms in society

Round 4

BACKGROUND: You've developed feelings for someone who is completely blind, and you're fairly certain the feeling is mutual. However, you have the ability to turn literally invisible.

MOTION: This house would disclose their invisibility to the person for whom they have developed feelings.

Varsity Semis

BACKGROUND: Modern-day piracy tends to happen in the poorest regions of the world, where there are little to no other opportunities for socioeconomic advancement. Some of it happens in response to foreign ships illegally plundering the resources of poor countries' territorial waters. Modern-day piracy predominantly takes the form of stealing cargo/cash. In regions with sophisticated piracy industries, especially Somalia, locals can often invest in pirate missions and earn a share of the profits.

MOTION: This house believes that modern day piracy, when it does not result in the physical injury or death of people, is morally justifiable.

Novice Semis

BACKGROUND: In Western Liberal Democracies, there are two dominant models for subsidizing childcare. The voucher model, used in the United States and the United Kingdom, provides cash transfers, tax credits, or vouchers directly to parents, who then choose between private and public providers. The center model, used in France and Denmark, invests heavily in publicly funded and operated childcare centers, with limited private alternatives.

MOTION: This House prefers the voucher model over the center model.

Varsity Finals

Motion: This House prefers a world where all emotions we hold for a person (love, anger, hatred, etc.) immediately fade away when that person dies.