PUBLIC FORUM DEBATE

Fill in the Blanks
Affirmative/Negative Constructive Speeches
★ You will say these words ★

According to ____(source)_____, “____ (quote OR statistic OR anecdote that introduces your theme)____.”

Because I agree with this (idea/sentiment/expressive wisdom/etc.), I seek (support/negation) of today’s resolution, “Resolved: __________ (exact text of the resolution) __________.”

For the purposes of today’s debate, I offer the following definitions from ___ (source: book / journal / dictionary / encyclopedia / author / author qualifications / year published / page number / etc.) _____.

Definition 1: __________ (as defined in your source) __________

Definition 2: __________ (as defined in your source) __________

Definition 3: __________ (as defined in your source) __________

(Define as many words in the resolution as necessary, but stay within the spectrum of reasonability.)

To better understand today’s topic, let us consider ______ (tag line for following example) ______.”

______ (example from news to show timeliness, support analysis, and show knowledge)

Therefore, ____ (restated resolution topic) ____ is ____ (qualifier: good/bad, right/wrong, moral/immoral) ____ for ____ (number) ____ of reasons.

First, ____ (simple label that is your first reason to support or negate the resolution) ______

Fully Developed Blue Box Argument

Second (or next or another transition), ______ (second blue box argument label) __________

Fully Developed Blue Box Argument

Finally, ______ (last blue box argument label) __________

Fully Developed Blue Box Argument

So, because (restate labels of arguments), I ask (encourage/request) that you (agree/disagree) with today’s resolution and concur (agree/support the opinion) that ______ (concise restatement of your position) ______.”
Each contention or argument gets a Blue Box

A. **Claim**
   a. Label your contentions/arguments.
      i. Example: Restrictions on civil liberties create second-class citizens.
      ii. Example: Freedom of expression is not absolute.
   c. Ask yourself, “What does this label mean?”

B. **Statement of Explanation**
   a. Answer with “What this means is...” or, “In other words...”
   b. Ask yourself, “Why?”

C. **Logic and Theory**
   a. Give the logic and theory behind your argument.
   b. Answer with, “Logically, when we...”

D. **Evidence**
   a. Use 1-2 pieces of current evidence from a legitimate source.
   b. Use evidence with sources that **reconfirm logic**.
      i. If the evidence “says it all,” then you probably skipped C.

E. **Explanation of Evidence**
   a. Explain your evidence in your own words.
   b. Example: “What Dr. Cantù is really pointing out exposes...”
   c. Example: “Using the AMA findings, the quality of life determines...”

F. **Illustration** (optional)
   a. Clarify, not justify

G. **Summation**
   a. Provide a succinct but thorough summary of your argument.
   b. “Because...”

H. **Relationship Between Contention and Resolution**
   a. Tie the contention into the resolution.
   b. This must show that your argument fits into the realm of the debate.