LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE

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

According to (source), “(quote OR statistic OR anecdote to introduce theme).”

Because I agree with this (idea/sentiment/expressive wisdom/etc.), I seek support 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.)

Because the resolution is (explanation linking resolution to value), the value is (value).

The criterion is (criterion), which means (clear, concise explanation of criterion).

(Optional) Further, (observation or explanation of what the affirmative does or does not have to prove)

(Optional) My thesis for this case is that (explanation of thesis, if there is one).

Therefore, (restitated resolution topic) is (qualifier: good, right, moral) for (number) of reasons.

First, (simple label that illustrates your first reason to support the resolution)

Fully Developed Grey Box Argument

Second (or next or another transition), (second grey box argument label)

Fully Developed Grey Box Argument

Finally, (last grey box argument label)

Fully Developed Grey Box Argument

So, because (restate labels of arguments), I (ask/encourage/request) that you vote (affirmative/negative) on today’s resolution and (concur/agree/support the opinion) that (concise restatement of your position).”
THIS IS A GREY BOX.

Each Lincoln-Douglas contention or argument gets a Grey Box

A. CLAIM
   a. Label your contentions.
      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 SUB-POINTS (optional)
   a. If there are any sub-points, they follow the same grey box format as your contention within the contention itself.

C. WARRANT
   a. Explain why the claim is true
   b. Answer with “What this [tag] means is...” or, “In other words...”
   c. Ask yourself, “Why?”
      i. Logic and Theory
         1. Give the logic and theory behind your argument.
         2. Answer with, “Logically, when we...”
      ii. Empirical Evidence
         1. Use 1-2 pieces of current evidence from a legitimate source.
         2. Use evidence with sources that reconfirm logic.
         3. Your empirical evidence does not “say it all;” it supports your warrant.

D. STATEMENT OF IMPACT
   a. Describes the implications of the argument and answers the questions, “How does this affect me?” and “Why should I care?”
   b. Example: What Dr. Cantù is really pointing out exposes...
   c. Example: Using the AMA findings, the quality of life determines...

E. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONTENTION AND RESOLUTION
   a. Tie the contention into the resolution.
   b. Clearly link the argument back to the value criterion.
      i. This will show why winning this point helps fulfill that criterion
   c. This must show that your argument fits into the realm of the debate.

F. SUMMATION
   a. Provide a succinct but thorough summary of your argument.
   b. “Because...”