Strategy Lecture

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Debating is a game

- Good arguments matter, but at some point you should be able to win over other good arguments…

… which are also well-analyzed, relevant and important

What does matter then?

1. Argument selection

Choose one awesomely developed argument or several good ones?

Both can work, but you should mind the following:

- If you choose to run one large argument, then

Make multiple logical chains (even if, the alternative, the incentives of all actors, worst case comparative etc.)

Establish the criteria of the debate and prove why your argument fits these criteria best

Example

TH would nationalize all systemically important financial institutions, such as banks and insurance companies

Nationalization can be beneficial for a lot of distinctive reasons:

Efficiency

Agency Problem

Hedging the risks

Accessibility of the services

Set the criteria based on: exclusiveness, most direct effect, the long-term solution (involatile)

Don't run irrelevant stuff, just don't

- Remember the basics!

- Development of a thesis could be an independent contribution but is it always worth your time and effort?

If you add new analysis or logical chains, nuances and characterization check '***what would be different?***'

Focus on rebuttal or frame it as extension!

Example

- **THW grant human rights to any machine that passes the "Extended Turing Test"**

Infoslide: An Artificial Intelligence machine (such as a robot) passes the "Extended Turing Test" if through extended conversation a human being cannot distinguish between the machine and an actual human.

OG: human rights is granted to everyone who can possess the same set of characteristics as humans. They are likely to behave the way we do, feel the way we do, they make a social contract, the can bring practical benefits and provide a lot of opportunities such as…

What is the best tactic for CG?

Example

"Frame rebuttal as a solid extension" tactic

If OO says they are not humans because…

… machines made by humans (artificial) – bring upon in vitro fertilization

… machines do not possess human body – bring upon biomechanics and differently abled people

… machines do not (are less) sympathize or emotional – tell about humans being on spectrum

So, make the starting point "machines passing this test are humans. We, as CG, would cover any possible and meaningful objection for that, therefore …"

ATM, would it be helpful to develop social contract thesis or where do the emotions come from analysis?

2. Prep time

At this point, you should not waste a lot of time on writing down every aspect of the arguments you come up with

- Brainstorm a lot

- Discuss with the partner what the main clash is going to be

- Ways to think about the arguments – break down the motion on:

• Actors (males, ethnic minority, middle income class or beneficiaries, dependents, China, West)

• Trends (ex. TH supports universal basic income – automatization of labour, fragility of the financial systems, influence of the distractors)

• Alternatives, why they are invalid and bring that as a point of analysis

3. Contextualization

Try to elaborate on the generic arguments

How to recognize them? With slight change you can use in any motion

Ex. THW conduct second Brexit referendum

Generic Case: British people were wronged by fake news, bad politicians, disastrous economic consequences. Sounds good, does work, but does not cover the complex institutional and incentive structure.

Contextualization through the description of the context:

Explain the situation of no alternatives, explain the incentives of the EU institutions (Ireland and Commission), what type of game they play

4. Burden

- Burdens are the determinants of debating
- Many debaters dedicate too much attention to the prove of harm to the target group

Ex.

TH supports the establishment of a Black secessionary state within the territory of the United States, the founding of which is supported by the American government.

Proving that histrorical injustice?

THW pay reparations to women

Proving injustice being made to women?

Rather do a baseline, but don't tempt to get into much explanation

5. Engage strategically

Don't leave the rebuttal on "not unique" level

Ex. THB the US should withdraw from East Asia and cede regional hegemony to China