### Escape Room – Topicality Activity *How to use this file:*

Students get three cards and this list of some true, some false topicality (T) standards (all in this document). They have to match the cards to the standards that fit them best. The cards are ordered. This means the final code generated is 103135 (1,0 // 3,1 // 3,5)

We change out the cards and numbers each year so they relate to the current Policy Debate resolution. For Public Form or Lincoln-Douglas, you could use this to talk about framework definitions and what arguments flow from them.

*Provided to the National Speech & Debate Association, courtesy of Dan Hansen and Becky Hansen, Fort Atkinson High School, WI*

**Topicality Standards?**

1 - Expert Source

2 - Reasonability

3 - Bright Line

4 - Framers’ Intent

5 - Legal Source

6 - Fairness

7 - Educational Source

8 - Ground

9 - Unbiased Source

0 - Fair Limits

These standards can be roughly categorized into two types: strength of source and effect on topical ground.

#### Code =

Card One: Source, Effect

then

Card Two: Effect, Source

then

Card Three: Effect, Source

### CARD ONE

#### Arms Sales are restricted to military equipment or dual use items for military uses.

#### Fieleke, 91 - Vice President and Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston (Norman, “A Primer on the Arms Trade” November/December 1991 New England Economic Review,<https://www.bostonfed.org/-/media/Documents/neer/neer691d.pdf>

The magnitude of the arms trade, of course, depends on how arms are defined. Stones can be deadly weapons, yet hardly belong in the same category as Scud missiles. In the case of many other items, the decision is not so easy. For example, chemicals that form the essence of certain weapons can also be put to peaceful uses. The unavoidably arbitrary element in classifying such items calls to mind the assertion of Lewis Carroll’s Humpty Dumpty: "When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean--neither more nor less.’’2

Recognizing that any definition will be rather arbitrary, we adopt, for purposes of measurement, the definition used by the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency: arms are military equipment, "including weapons of war, parts thereof, ammunition, support equipment, and other commodities designed for military use." This ACDA definition embraces tactical guided missiles and rockets, military aircraft, naval vessels, armored and nonarmored military vehicles, communications and electronic equipment, artillery, infantry weapons, small arms, ammunition, other ordnance, parachutes, and uniforms. Dual use equipment--which can be used either for military or civilian purposes--is included when its primary mission can be identified as military, although all foodstuffs, medical equipment, petroleum products, and other such supplies are excluded. Also counted in arms transfers are the construction of defense production facilities and licensing fees paid as royalties for the production of military equipment, when they are incorporated in military transfer agreements by countries other than the United States. Missing from this list is strategic weaponry, but ACDA flatly asserts, "There have been no international transfers of strategic weaponry.’’3

### CARD TWO

#### FMS refers exclusively to a specific list of AECA-authorized sales

SAMM, 12 – Security Assistance Management Manual; this is the Defense Security Cooperation Agency’s official manual governing Foreign Military Sales, it is the most current version <https://www.samm.dsca.mil/listing/esamm-glossary>

Foreign Military Sales (FMS) That portion of U.S. security assistance authorized by the AECA, and conducted on the basis of formal contracts or agreements between the United States Government and an authorized recipient government or international organization. FMS includes government-to-government sales of defense articles or defense services, from DoD stocks or through new procurements under DoD-managed contracts, regardless of the source of financing.

### CARD THREE

#### Reduce must be permanent – it’s distinct from “suspend”

**Reynolds 59** – Judge (In the Matter of Doris A. Montesani, Petitioner, v. Arthur Levitt, as Comptroller of the State of New York, et al., Respondents [NO NUMBER IN ORIGINAL] Supreme Court of New York, Appellate Division, Third Department 9 A.D.2d 51; 189 N.Y.S.2d 695; 1959 N.Y. App. Div. LEXIS 7391 August 13, 1959, lexis)

Section 83's counterpart with regard to nondisability pensioners, section 84, prescribes a reduction only if the pensioner should again take a public job. The disability pensioner is penalized if he takes any type of employment. The reason for the difference, of course, is that in one case the only reason pension benefits are available is because the pensioner is considered incapable of gainful employment, while in the other he has fully completed his "tour" and is considered as having earned his reward with almost no strings attached. It would be manifestly unfair to the ordinary retiree to accord the disability retiree the benefits of the System to which they both belong when the latter is otherwise capable of earning a living and had not fulfilled his service obligation. If it were to be held that withholdings under section 83 were payable whenever the pensioner died or stopped his other employment the whole purpose of the provision would be defeated, i.e., the System might just as well have continued payments during the other employment since it must later pay it anyway. [\*\*\*13] The section says "reduced", does not say that monthly payments shall be temporarily suspended; it says that the pension itself shall be reduced. The *plain dictionary meaning* of the word is to diminish, lower or degrade. The word "reduce" seems adequately to indicate *permanency*.