Handout 2A

Collecting Debate Evidence:

How to Cut “Cards”

Before everyone had a personal computer, debaters used to photocopy articles out of magazines or newspapers, then use scissors to cut the most important piece of information out of the paper and paste it to an index card. After the arts and crafts were finished, the debater then had to write the source information and a tag line on the card. The cards were filed in boxes that debaters carried with them from tournament to tournament. This is how debate evidence came to be called “cards”. Today, we still cut evidence, but we do it by cutting and pasting on the computer and printing our “***cards***” on normal paper. The way we carry it to debate tournaments may have changed, but the method for “***cutting***” and “***tagging***” remains the same.

**Raw Material**

Using the example, *Resolved: Immigration ought to be a human right,* let’s examine a piece of an article published in the Anti-Trafficking Review:

This line of reasoning is valid as far as it goes, but in our opinion, it does not go far enough. For it is also true that genuine human rights protections for migrants, whether trafficked or not, can only be enforced and upheld by sovereign states or by intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working with their assistance. Ultimately, the primary responsibility rests with the state to address trafficking in persons and uphold the migrants’ human rights. This is the reality that a feasible and meaningful discussion on the role of border controls in anti-trafficking responses must take into account. To ignore or deny it will only serve to worsen the present situation. States are not going to open their borders to the free flow of migrants, no matter how much they are criticized. Even if one concedes that states are losing control, having a sense of control over one’s border, as Will Kymlicka argues, is of the utmost importance. First, it reduces fear, makes citizens feel secure, and takes some of the heat out of political debates on migration. Second, in most countries, there is little support for large-scale migration as well as a strong moralistic objection to rewarding irregular migrants who enter under false pretenses. Third, it is easier for migrants to integrate into countries like Australia and Canada, where migration is managed and the result of state selection because large numbers of irregular migrants often result in a backlash against multiculturalism.

Source: Miller, Rebecca & Baumeister, Sebastian. [[Senior consultant and Project Coordinator at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, respectively.] “Managing Migration: Is border control fundamental to anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling interventions?” Anti-Trafficking Review. No 2 (2013). Web. Accessed 1/26/17.

When preparing a “card,” the idea is to select the most valuable pieces of information and *nothing more.* When you choose part of an article to copy and paste into a word document, you must copy/paste the entire paragraph, even if only a portion of that paragraph is relevant to your argument. This is to ensure academic honesty; your argument must not misrepresent the author’s intent.

The article above presents a call for state action and three reasons why states will not open their borders to immigrants. The debater will choose a part of this material that concisely highlights the point they want to make. In this case, the debater only wants to list the three reasons states will not open their borders. Bold and underline that part of the text. Then, make text that is not important in this argument smaller (but still large enough to read):

This line of reasoning is valid as far as it goes, but in our opinion, it does not go far enough. For it is also true that genuine human rights protections for migrants, whether trafficked or not, can only be enforced and upheld by sovereign states or by intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working with their assistance. Ultimately, the primary responsibility rests with the state to address trafficking in persons and uphold the migrants’ human rights. This is the reality that a feasible and meaningful discussion on the role of border controls in anti-trafficking responses must take into account. To ignore or deny it will only serve to worsen the present situation. **States are not going to open their borders to the free flow of migrants, no matter how much they are criticized. Even if one concedes that states are losing control, having a sense of control over one’s border, as Will Kymlicka argues, is of the utmost importance. First, it reduces fear, makes citizens feel secure, and takes some of the heat out of political debates on migration. Second, in most countries, there is little support for large-scale migration as well as a strong moralistic objection to rewarding irregular migrants who enter under false pretenses. Third, it is easier for migrants to integrate into countries like Australia and Canada, where migration is managed and the result of state selection because large numbers of irregular migrants often result in a backlash against multiculturalism.**

When a debater reads their case in round, they will only read the text that is bold/underlined.

Next, debaters will read through the bold/underlined text and remove sentences, words, or phrases that are irrelevant, repetitive, or extraneous. To “remove” part of the card is to make the text small. It is important to remember that *nothing can be deleted or added*, and the final product must match the author’s original idea.

This line of reasoning is valid as far as it goes, but in our opinion, it does not go far enough. For it is also true that genuine human rights protections for migrants, whether trafficked or not, can only be enforced and upheld by sovereign states or by intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working with their assistance. Ultimately, the primary responsibility rests with the state to address trafficking in persons and uphold the migrants’ human rights. This is the reality that a feasible and meaningful discussion on the role of border controls in anti-trafficking responses must take into account. To ignore or deny it will only serve to worsen the present situation. **States are not going to open their borders to the free flow of migrants, no matter how much they are criticized.** Even if one concedes that states are losing control, **having a sense of control over one’s border**, as Will Kymlicka argues, **is of the utmost importance. First, it reduces fear**, makes citizens feel secure, **and takes some of the heat out of political debates on migration. Second, in most countries, there is** little support for large-scale migration as well as **a strong moralistic objection to rewarding irregular migrants who enter under false pretenses. Third, it is easier for migrants to integrate into countries like Australia and Canada, where migration is managed** and the result of state selection **because large numbers of irregular migrants often result in a backlash against multiculturalism.**

When this card is used in round, only the bold and underlined text will be read aloud. Keeping the text that is not read small acts as a check to ensure that good evidence protocol is being followed.

**Preparing the Cutting:**

Once the article is cut, a “**tag**” must be assigned to the information. Tags should be a short, one-sentence summary of the evidence that is to follow. Looking at the cutting, we can come up with several ways to summarize what that information says such as:

1. Allowing sovereign states to control their borders is key to protecting immigrants.

Or

1. Sovereign states need border control to reduce political backlash against immigrants.

**Sourcing: ALL CARDS must have complete sourcing!!!**

The complete source text for the evidence must be present. However, when speaking, the debater will not read the full source unless asked for it by an opponent or judge. Check your district’s rules for what material must be audibly announced. In a district where author and year are required, it is suggested that you add that information at the beginning of the card so that you do not forget to read it when speaking. If there are two authors, like in the card below, state the last names of both authors followed by the year.

You will read the tag, the last names & year, and then the bold/underlined text. Your finished cards will look like this:

Sovereign states need border control to reduce political backlash against immigrants.

Miller & Baumeister, 2013:

This line of reasoning is valid as far as it goes, but in our opinion, it does not go far enough. For it is also true that genuine human rights protections for migrants, whether trafficked or not, can only be enforced and upheld by sovereign states or by intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) working with their assistance. Ultimately, the primary responsibility rests with the state to address trafficking in persons and uphold the migrants’ human rights. This is the reality that a feasible and meaningful discussion on the role of border controls in anti-trafficking responses must take into account. To ignore or deny it will only serve to worsen the present situation. **States are not going to open their borders to the free flow of migrants, no matter how much they are criticized.** Even if one concedes that states are losing control, **having a sense of control over one’s border**, as Will Kymlicka argues, **is of the utmost importance. First, it reduces fear**, makes citizens feel secure, **and takes some of the heat out of political debates on migration. Second, in most countries, there is** little support for large-scale migration as well as **a strong moralistic objection to rewarding irregular migrants who enter under false pretenses. Third, it is easier for migrants to integrate into countries like Australia and Canada, where migration is managed** and the result of state selection **because large numbers of irregular migrants often result in a backlash against multiculturalism.**

Source: Miller, Rebecca & Baumeister, Sebastian. [[Senior consultant and Project Coordinator at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, respectively.] “Managing Migration: Is border control fundamental to anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling interventions?” Anti-Trafficking Review. No 2 (2013). Web. Accessed 1/26/17.

**Organizing Cards:**

****As you create cards, organize them by category (not just Aff and Neg) so that you have several cards for each category. Cards should be listed in order of the best evidence to worst. In the example of the topic using the evidence above, the Neg side might have the following categories into which they compile evidence:****

**Open immigration empirically fails**

**Open immigration impossible to enforce**

**States do not support open immigration**

**Used with the permission of Dana Meiter**