

Motion Classes



Motion Types



Debaters need to be aware that there are generally three different types of motions that they will encounter: Evaluative motions, Comparative motions and Policy motions.

Evaluative motions refer to motions where the teams make a judgment on the subject of the motion. For some motions, the teams make a general evaluation of whether a particular entity is good or bad. These motions could be phrased as “This house supports the Monarchy, This house believes that the Media has done more harm than good, This house supports ASEAN., etc.” In these circumstances, the teams will have to consider the various traits and characteristics of the subject (the Monarchy, Media, ASEAN, etc) to show that their impact have been generally good or bad for society.

A variation of the Evaluative motion requires teams to make a judgment on a particular subject based on a fixed criterion. In these motions, the teams are required to argue whether the subject fits a particular description or not. For example, for a motion which reads “This house believes that the Internet is dangerous” the Proposition team argues that the internet has been

dangerous while the Opposition team argues that the internet is safe. Any of the Opposition team's arguments on the other benefits of the internet will thus not have a significant impact on the motion. Another example will be the motion "This house believes that there is too much money in sports," where the debaters will have to show that sports has too much money or that it does not, and ignore the aspects of sports which are not related to or impacted by money.

A third variation of the Evaluative motion is the Predictive motion. These motions requires team to make a prediction of the future for a particular subject or in general. However, these are still considered Evaluative since the predictions are based on an assessment of the general trends leading up to the presence. A typical evaluative motion could read "This house welcomes the new millenium" or "Thus house believes the future for Southeast Asia is bright."

Comparative Motions refer to motions where debaters are required to compare two separate subjects. Usually, the debaters will be asked to choose between two separate subjects, assuming that both cannot be chosen at the same time. In these cases, the teams will have to evaluate both subjects according the same set of criteria and make a judgement on which one will be better for society. For example, for the motion "This house would rather economic development than environmental protection," the Proposition team has to highligh how economic development is needed to relieve poverty in the developing world while the Opposition team may argue that environmental protection creates more poverty.

Policy motions refer to motions where the Proposition has to outline a specific plan of action in accordance with the motion. There is usually no need to outline the plan in minute detail and a broad set of policy measures will be sufficient. These motions require propositions to show that the policy is needed and that the policy is effective. The Opposition will usually be able to attack the motion and the Proposition on either ground. However, it is usually better for the opposition to be able to show that the policy is both not needed and not effective.

For more on policy motions, please refer to the section on "[The Set Up](#)."

Special Motions: Debaters should take note of certain motions, which are called “**Big Red Ball**” motions. These motions require the Proposition team to prove multiple elements within a motion and are generally tougher on the Proposition team. They are named “

Big

Red

Ball” since the Proposition has to prove that the ball is both

big

and

red

. One such motion will be “This house would control population through legislation in China.”

The Proposition has to prove that a. the population has to be controlled, b. the control has to be through legislation and c. that the policy should be implemented in China. The Opposition has the option of attacking any of the above three facets. It may also decide to attack ALL three facets but has to be careful that it does not contradict itself in doing so.



Burdens



~~1. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government. 2. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government. 3. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government. 4. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government. 5. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government. 6. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government. 7. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government. 8. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government. 9. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government. 10. The right to privacy is a fundamental right that should be protected by the government.~~