

The Final Round¹

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Connecticut Debate Association

Amity High School and New Canaan High School

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Resolved: The US should adopt legislation substantially similar to the DREAM Act.

A Note about the Notes

I've reproduced my flow chart for the final round at Amity High School augmented by what I remember from the debate. The notes are limited by how quickly I could write and how well I heard what was said. Others may have slightly different versions. I'm sure the debaters will read them and exclaim, at points, "That's not what I said!" I apologize for any errors, but I hope debaters will appreciate this insight: what a judge hears may not be what they said or wish they had said.

There are two versions of the notes. The one below is chronological, reproducing each speech in the order in which the arguments were made. It shows how the debate was actually presented. The second is formatted to look more like my written flow chart, with each contention "flowed" across the page as the teams argued back and forth. It's close to the way I actually take notes during the debate.

The Final Round

The final round at Amity was between the Amity High School team of Steven Kingston and Alex Marieb on the Affirmative and Amity High School team of Ben DiBuduo and Eeman Abbasi on the Negative. The debate was won by the Negative team.

1) First Affirmative Constructive

- a) Introduction
- b) Statement of the Resolution
- c) Definition: "substantially" means 50% identical.
- d) A1²: The DREAM Act economically benefits the US
 - i) Higher education leads to higher earnings
 - ii) This leads to higher tax revenue
 - iii) There will be \$1.4 billion lower deficit and \$2.4 billion higher revenue over 10 years
 - iv) There will be savings on detention and prosecution of illegal immigrants

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² "A1" indicates the Affirmative first contention, "N2" the Negative second contention and so forth.

- e) A2: The DREAM Act will benefit the US military
 - i) Those who fight for the country have a right to citizenship
 - ii) E.g., during the Civil War African Americans who fought were freed
 - f) A3: The DREAM Act has social and human benefits
 - i) Criminals are removed from eligibility
 - (1) Problem immigrants are removed
 - (2) Keeps the good, hard-working ones
 - ii) Those affected were brought as minors by their parents
 - iii) If we don't do this, we discourage immigration by good citizens
- 2) Cross-Ex of First Affirmative**
- a) What will be the cost over 10 years? Don't know, but deporting them all would cost \$25 billion according to the packet
 - b) Can they lie on the applications? Yes, but there would be a background check
 - c) Isn't hard to find documents for illegal immigrants? Yes, but it can be done
 - d) How many people will be affected? 1.1 million according to the packet.
- 3) First Negative Constructive**
- a) Intro
 - b) Resolution
 - c) We accept the Aff definitions
 - d) N1: The DREAM Act promotes illegal immigration
 - i) The Act provides an incentive to families with young children
 - ii) Undocumented immigrants pay no taxes, and this will increase
 - iii) Reward is temporary residence, not citizenship
 - iv) Incentive to bring in extended family members
 - v) We can't handle these immigrants in the current economy
 - (1) 2.1 million plus others who may come
 - e) N2: The Act has many loopholes including morality
 - i) The morality is subjective—who decides?
 - (1) Crime is not the only indicator of problem immigrants
 - ii) If they falsify forms, how do you know
 - (1) By definition they are undocumented
 - (2) Suggest the cost of enforcement will be high
 - f) N3: The Act has major economic drawbacks
 - i) Most of these immigrants make less than \$10,000 per year
 - (1) They will be a welfare and tax drain
 - ii) We may save \$2.4 billion, but we will lost \$5 billion
 - (1) Money could be put to better use
 - (2) All these numbers are projections, so there is no certainty
- 4) Cross-Ex of First Negative**
- a) Do you agree the gov't needs to check for citizenship? Yes
 - b) How will this be different under the DREAM Act? The number will be larger, 2.1 million according to page 1 of the packet
 - c) Isn't it always true that illegal immigrants are trying to help their children? The Act increases the incentives, so there will be more, and more cost.
 - d) Can't temporary residency lead to citizenship? Possibly, but not certainly

- e) But it provides illegal immigrants with protections? You don't need a degree, just two years, they may never graduate
- f) Won't they try to get a job, finish school, take the opportunity? But it could go the other way. You can't say.
- g) Do legal immigrants have 100% success? No, but the Dream Act is too risky

5) Second Affirmative Constructive

- a) Intro
- b) Resolution
- c) A1: Economics
 - i) The Act will increase tax revenue
 - (1) Economy is in deficit, so we need all we can get
 - ii) It reduces the number of criminals by definition, so we will save on enforcement
 - (1) Packet says it costs \$25 billion to detain and deport 1.1 million
- d) A2: The Act provides an incentive to join the military
 - i) This will increase the size of the military
 - ii) Better than draft. Many will go on to college
 - iii) If you serve, you should have a right to stay
 - iv) Military leadership skills benefit the economy
- e) A3: We should not punish children for what their parents did
 - i) They have worked hard and should get the American dream
- f) Neg Issues
 - i) Records? We already deal with documentation for legal immigrants
 - (1) We find the right records, why would this be different?
 - ii) Importing poverty? Packet says those earning less than \$10,000 have an eighth grade education or less
 - (1) DREAM Act changes this, better education means higher income
 - iii) Fail to graduate? Why would they give up their chances by dropping out?
 - (1) Act provides access to financial aid

6) Cross-Ex of Second Affirmative

- a) Are they given a high school education or do they need it? They already use the public school system
- b) Aren't they still illegal immigrants? Yes, and because they have to hide, many are in poverty
- c) So you believe that if someone wants to be in the US they should get to be in the US, regardless of the law? There is still a legal process
- d) Aren't the parents committing an illegal act? These aren't dangerous crimes.
- e) Are they illegal? Not murder, just immigration

7) Second Negative Constructive

- a) Intro
- b) Resolution: The US should not enact the DREAM Act
- c) I will cover the Aff then Neg
- d) Definitions: they provide no age limit. Packet permits those up to 35 to apply
 - i) Benefit is to older immigrants, not minors
- e) Under cross, they agreed immigration system no wholly effective
 - i) Resolution makes it worse

- f) Aff gives us different numbers: 2.1 million, 1.1 million
 - i) Page 2 says only 7-13,000 college students will qualify under the Act
- g) Under cross, Aff agree illegal immigration is a crime
 - i) Compare N1 and A3. Essentially Aff agreed with N1.
- h) N1: Act provides reward for breaking the law
 - i) Aff gives different estimates of how many affected
 - ii) Could be 2.1 million, plus children
 - iii) If their earnings are low, they will qualify for welfare
 - (1) We can't support all of these
 - iv) \$5 billion to enact the law
 - v) Plus more for immigrants to prove their status

8) Cross-Ex of Second Negative

- a) Isn't there a trickle effect? Won't the immigrants become more productive? Why don't you describe how this will happen
- b) If they have rights, can be legal, won't they be more productive? Again, how, you should explain
- c) If they are legal, can't they get a job, pay taxes? That wouldn't be fair to other legal immigrants
- d) Explain you second contention about loopholes? What is good moral behavior, and who decides.
- e) Doesn't law reflect morals? Sometimes
- f) Doesn't religion influence morality? We believe in the separation of church and state
- g) Still, isn't religion an influence? For some.

9) First Negative Rebuttal

- a) Intro
- b) A1 vs N3
 - i) \$2.4 billion saved versus \$5 billion in costs
- c) A2: How can someone show loyalty in only two years
 - i) You need to be an American to be a soldier
- d) A3: There is a legal process for immigrants for a reason
 - i) Act lets people cheat the system
 - ii) It will be an oppressive influence on the economy
 - iii) Those up to 35 can apply
- e) Vs. N2
 - i) How can it be moral if they came here illegally?
 - (1) Their process starts with an immoral act
 - ii) Gov't is not denying them anything
 - (1) If they had stayed home, they would have full rights in their countries

10) First Affirmative Rebuttal

- a) Intro
- b) Resolution
- c) I will approach the case from the Aff side, contrasting with Neg
- d) A1: We said 1.1 million
 - i) 2.1 million was a number given by the Neg
 - ii) 1.1 million drives cost savings

- (1) \$23,000 for legal costs
- (2) If 2.1 million the \$25 billion would double to \$50 million
- e) A2: Neg says illegals should fight
 - i) After 2 years they get temporary legal status
 - ii) Need an additional six years to become citizens (pg. 9)
 - iii) Act extends to those up to age 35
 - (1) Still have to prove they came as minors
 - iv) They were brought by parents who committed a crime
 - (1) Children should be innocent until proven guilty
 - v) It doesn't extend to all those hoping to be citizens
 - (1) There are other problems in the immigration system
 - (2) DREAM Act is not an overhaul

11) Second Negative Rebuttal

- a) Intro
- b) Resolution
- c) Economics
 - i) Aff ignores costs of enactment
 - ii) Error is millions vs billions
- d) Punish the Children?
 - i) We don't punish the children
 - ii) Act let's parents get away with illegal activity
 - iii) They came here to get an education for their children
 - iv) Act gives them what they illegally came here for
- e) Military
 - i) Two years is not enough to show loyalty
 - (1) Aff says it requires another six years. This isn't in the packet
- f) Gov't is not responsible for the mistakes of the parents
- g) Repeat N1, N2, N3

12) Second Affirmative Rebuttal

- a) Intro
- b) Packet page 9 says they have six years to become citizens
 - i) 2 years plus six years, they will have to want citizenship , will be loyal
- c) Parents don't get a bye
 - i) Children are innocent, and do get a bye
 - ii) Parents want better life for their children
 - (1) This is exactly the type of moral citizens we want
- d) Unfair to legal immigrants?
 - i) DREAM Act process is similar to that for legal immigrants
 - ii) 2 years of college or military, then six years to be citizens
- e) Economic and Social Effects
 - i) Need a more competitive society
 - ii) We are falling behind China
 - iii) Immigrants are more competitive, will give us a push
- f) Repeat A1, A2, A3