

# The Final Round<sup>1</sup>

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## Connecticut Debate Association

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**Resolved: The US should resettle a significant share of Mideast refugees.**

## A Note about the Notes

I've reproduced my flow chart for the Final Round at Wilton 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. I'm sure the debaters will read them and exclaim, "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 what they 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 running 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 was between the Ridgefield team of Will Barth and Kunal Chauhan on the Affirmative and the AITE team of Tanusri Balla and Brian Fleischer on the Negative. The debate was won by the Affirmative.

### 1) First Affirmative Constructive

- a) Introduction: this is the greatest demographic crisis
- b) Statement of the Resolution
- c) Definitions
  - i) "US" includes the gov't, agencies and communities
  - ii) "resettle" permanent asylum with path to citizenship
  - iii) "significant" 200,000 by 2017
  - iv) "refugees" fleeing war and persecution
- d) A1<sup>2</sup>: There is a US precedent and obligation to resettle refugees
  - i) We are a nation of immigrants, a pluralist society
  - ii) Admitted 650,00 after WWII and 250,000 after Vietnam
  - iii) 1980 law supports taking in refugees
  - iv) Einstein and Sergei Brin were refugees
  - v) Legal obligation under 1951 UN Convention

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

- vi) It's the will of the people: communities and Christian groups have been welcoming
- e) A2: Refugees have contributed to the US economy
  - i) Immigrants value our democracy
  - ii) They are willing to fight for US, volunteer for the armed forces
  - iii) In New York, 95% of immigrants get high school degrees, only 62% of native born
- f) A3: The high selectivity of current US programs places refugees at risk
  - i) In limbo in camps refugees are victimized by lawyers
- g) A4: US resettlement would relieve the strain on Europe
  - i) Taking our fair share is a gesture to our Allies
- 2) Cross-Ex of First Affirmative**
  - a) Repeat A1, A3? A1, A3
  - b) You say if we bring in refugees, unemployment will decrease. How? The public is dedicated to helping them.
  - c) A majority of the public? Polls differ. We believe enough communities will act.
  - d) Do the refugees want to come to the US or are they fleeing? They are fleeing from danger, but then they want to come here.
  - e) Are they required to assimilate? We won't force them, but it happens naturally.
- 3) First Negative Constructive**
  - a) The refugee crisis needs long-term solutions, not the short-term solution proposed by Aff
  - b) Intro
  - c) Resolution
  - d) Definition: "resettle" means permanent relocation
  - e) Counterplan (CP): Build communities in the MidEast to provide safe-haven
    - i) Use diplomatic means to re-establish stability so refugees can return home
    - ii) This CP is not under the resolution as we are not resettling
    - iii) This is a long-term solution, not short-term: fix the nations involved and provide humanitarian aid
  - f) N1: Refugees don't want to relocate permanently
    - i) They have a culture and religion they want to maintain
      - (1) This will be lost as their children Americanize
    - ii) Large numbers will generate hostility
      - (1) Majority of state governors have said they don't want ME refugees
  - g) N2: Damages the future of the MidEast
    - i) Depletes the educated workforce
    - ii) Nations can't recover and this leads to collapse
  - h) N3: CP solves the root problem, and is not a bandaid like Aff
    - i) Syria and other countries not stable
    - ii) Without stability, it will generate more refugees
    - iii) CP repairs and stabilizes situation so refugees can return home
  - i) A1: This is different from past resettlements
    - i) The numbers are much greater
    - ii) It's not democratic in that there is strong resistance
  - j) A2: If the number of refugees is large, unemployment must increase

- i) This is simple economics of supply and demand
- k) A3: [TIME]
- 4) Cross-Ex of First Negative**
  - a) How will you stop Assad and ISIS without violence? Best solution is negotiations not more violence.
  - b) How will diplomacy do more? We are looking for stability, not an ideal solution.
  - c) Will you intervene militarily? No, it isn't needed.
  - d) Isn't the Neg just proposing refugee camps? Not camps, communities.
  - e) Who will administer them? The US and other international bodies.
  - f) Won't the camps be open for decades? Communities not camps
  - g) Open for years? Not years.
  - h) Don't we fund camps now? We'll provide more funding
- 5) Second Affirmative Constructive**
  - a) Intro
  - b) Resolution
  - c) Neg then Aff
  - d) CP: The "communities" defy logic
    - i) This is a long conflict nowhere near resolution
    - ii) The "communities" are just refugee camps that haven't worked in the past
    - iii) Resettling in America is the only viable alternative
  - e) A1: The US supports the UN
    - i) This is a humanitarian crisis
    - ii) Neg keeps refugees in crisis, pushes the problem away
    - iii) The US has the duty and ability to help
  - f) A2: 95% of immigrants in NYC graduate high school compared to 60% native born
    - i) Immigrants have skills, education and achievement
    - ii) This helps the US economy
  - g) A3: limited places for refugees in the US leaves them at risk
    - i) They are scammed by lawyers promising help
    - ii) Open borders solves the problem
    - iii) Refugees can always return if they wish
- 6) Cross-Ex of Second Affirmative**
  - a) Do refugees want to resettle or are they forced? Forced
  - b) Forced? Forced to leave their country; going to US would be a choice.
  - c) Where would they prefer to live if their country were stable? Don't know.
  - d) Suppose they were stable? They would still seek safety and wait and see.
  - e) Why has the US been so selective? Too much bureaucracy
  - f) What about limited capacity? That wasn't a problem in the past
  - g) How can an increase in refugees lower unemployment? It's only 200,000, and their skills help in the long-term
  - h) Will they have to assimilate? No, but it will happen naturally.
  - i) So they will keep their own culture? Our communities will accept them
  - j) Won't the US impact their culture? Yes
- 7) Second Negative Constructive**
  - a) Intro

- b) Aff then Neg
- c) A1: We answered the humanitarian and democracy arguments in 1NC
  - i) As to the legal argument, the US public is not willing to take the refugees
- d) A2: This depends on the link between refugees and unemployment
  - i) More workers mean more competition for jobs so unemployment rises
  - ii) Refugees have to leave; it isn't that they want to come
  - iii) Aff says they will assimilate and so lose their culture, children more than adults
  - iv) They wouldn't leave if the situation were stable
  - v) They will find it very hard to go back
- e) A3: mitigated by the CP
- f) A4: mitigated by the CP
- g) CP: safe havens are needed because the conflict is a long one
- h) N3: Neg is proposing a new approach, humanitarian vs military
  - i) All we want to do is stabilize the situation, not impose capitalism
- i) Communities versus camps
  - i) Much greater funding with education
  - ii) Refugees are safe, keep their own culture
  - iii) Help the US economy by keeping unemployment down

#### **8) Cross-Ex of Second Negative**

- a) The communities would be temporary? Yes
- b) Have refugee camps been temporary? Currently they aren't well funded
- c) Haven't they been open for years and decades? They haven't taken the right approach.
- d) Could your communities be open for years and decades if your CP fails? It's possible
- e) Who would pay for them? Money comes from Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan
- f) Private funds? It's possible. Gov'ts could provide more.
- g) Couldn't camps be temporary before refugees move to US? It's not effective to bring them to the US
- h) If they are temporary, isn't there a lot of uncertainty? I don't know
- i) Are the Kurds safe in Syria? I don't know
- j) What about Kurds in Turkey? I don't know
- k) Are they safe there? They are safer the closer they stay to home.
- l) Why do they have to lose their culture? You said they would assimilate
- m) Did we say they would be forced to assimilate? You said it would happen naturally, so that means it would be hard for them to return

#### **9) First Negative Rebuttal**

- a) Intro
- b) I want to review the debate based on two voting issues
- c) First, what is better for the refugees?
  - i) 31 of 50 state governors are hostile to resettlement
  - ii) The US is a radically different culture
  - iii) Turmoil, not desire for the West is driving them
  - iv) Therefore it's better if they stay close, keep their culture and hope for return
  - v) CP provides aid, repairs the situation and permits this

- vi) Aff provides none of these
- d) Second, which is more effective
  - i) Over 200,000 refugees in the US
  - ii) They face a steep learning curve and long period of integration
  - iii) They increase competition in the job market
  - iv) Neg keeps them in place where they can develop their own jobs and education
  - v) Maintaining their culture would be better in the long run.

#### **10) First Affirmative Rebuttal**

- a) As this is my last speech, I'd like to thank my coach
- b) CP: unclear how it will provide stability
  - i) Worse than Bush and weapons of mass destruction
  - ii) We already have charities to fund camp
  - iii) CP is not mutually exclusive
  - iv) EU doesn't want the refugees
  - v) Resettlement is the only long-term solution
  - vi) It also violates the sovereignty of Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon or wherever the camps are established
  - vii) Kurds are persecuted in Turkey
- c) N1: Aff provides option for refugees to choose their destiny
  - i) US not a WASP-only country
  - ii) Muslim communities in NY, CA, would be willing to take them
- d) N2: Nothing prevents us from continuing to fight Assad
- e) N3: We don't know when the war will end
  - i) Camps won't help refugees denied by the EU and facing harm in the MidEast
  - ii) The US must step in
- f) A1: There is local support to accept refugees

#### **11) Second Negative Rebuttal**

- a) Can charities provide funding?
  - i) They have far less money; Neg funds through gov't
- b) Do we threaten sovereignty?
  - i) Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan happy to have more help
  - ii) They already have camps, and need money and infrastructure
- c) In the Aff world:
  - i) More refugees in US leads to more resistance and division
  - ii) Refugees lose culture as they assimilate, as Aff says they will
  - iii) US economy is harmed with higher unemployment
  - iv) In the long-term, if stability returns, assimilation makes it hard to return
- d) In the Neg world:
  - i) Refugees don't come to the US
  - ii) In the short-term, they are better off in better funded camps, and keep their own culture
  - iii) None of the negative political and economic effects in the US
  - iv) In the long-term they go home, and not as foreigners

#### **12) Second Affirmative Rebuttal**

- a) Economy
  - i) Refugees provide a long-term increase in competitiveness and productivity

- b) Are refugees forced or do they want to come?
  - i) They want to come to the US and they want permanence
  - ii) They may lose some of their culture, but they aren't compelled
  - iii) The refugees give back to the US
- c) Neg leaves refugees in an uncertain situation
  - i) No timetable for return or stability
  - ii) Aff brings them to US, provides certainty, stability
  - iii) Refugees can always return if they wish
- d) Neg "communities" are just camps with more money
  - i) Still no jobs or opportunity, just food, shelter and education
  - ii) Aff provides a place to live with opportunity and permanence