

opponents. You are permitted to provide further evidence and analysis to support the arguments that you initiated in your constructive speeches, but you cannot start a brand new argument.

25. Resolution: The proposition is a statement that expresses the subject of the dispute. In academic debate the proposition is called the **resolution**.

26. Solvency → *Solvency Attacks*

The negative will often choose to refute the affirmative's depiction of the status quo while also attacking the affirmative's claim that their proposed plan would be superior to the status quo. First, the negative may deny that significant advantages will result from implementing the plan. Such arguments challenge the affirmative prediction that the proposed policy will solve the problems of the status quo; hence they are called solvency attacks.

27. Substantive arguments: As one might expect, most of the arguments advanced in debate focus on the reasons why the audience should accept or reject the resolution. These are called *substantive arguments*. There are some arguments, however, that may precede the substantive ones.

- In a substantive debate on matters of value the vision may be only of the status quo. In a substantive debate on a question of policy the affirmative is called upon to envision and depict two worlds: the world of the status quo and that of the status quo plus the plan. We will consider each in turn.

28. Take out:

*Affirmative Responses.* The negative must be wary when presenting disadvantages, for the affirmative has two (take out and turnarounds) options for response. One option is called a **take out**. This is an argument that simply denies the chain of events in the story. Its name stems from the idea that if you take out one link a chain, the chain falls apart. Similarly, if you break the sequence of events in the story the negatives tells, you deny the validity of the story. If the negative story is that assisting Pakistan may anger the leaders of India and lead to war, the affirmative could agree that India would be angered, but deny the next step in the story: that India would go to war.

29. Time frame: Time Frame may be critical. If the affirmative plan could cause a significant disadvantage before it accrues its disadvantage that could be a reason to reject the proposal. If the achievable affirmative advantage has a shorter time frame than the eventual disadvantage, the audience may decide to accept the eventual risk of the disadvantage for the nearer term benefit of the affirmative proposal.

30. Topicality argument: We have already noted that the affirmative burden is to prove the resolution. The affirmative therefore has the *right to define* the key terms of the resolution. But the affirmative must do so in a nonabusive manner. If the arguments presented by the affirmative deal with something other than the resolution, the affirmative will not have proved the resolution true. A negative argument alleging that the affirmative has strayed from proving the resolution true is called a *topicality argument*.

31. Turnaround: The second kind of affirmative response to a disadvantage response to a disadvantage is particularly dangerous to the negative. Affirmatives may present arguments called **turnarounds**. A turnaround is an argument that takes a disadvantage and turns it into an advantage for the affirmative.