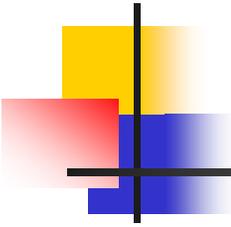


POLICY DEBATE

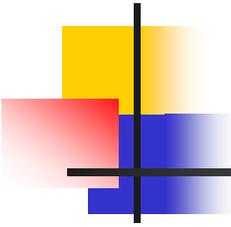
An Introduction

by Rich Edwards
Baylor University



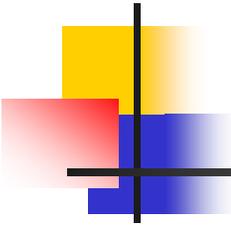
The Structure of a Debate

- Constructive Speeches
 - 1AC: 8 Minutes
 - Cross-Examined by 2NC: 3 Minutes
 - 1NC: 8 Minutes
 - Cross-Examined by 1AC: 3 Minutes
 - 2AC: 8 Minutes
 - Cross-Examined by 1NC: 3 Minutes
 - 2NC: 8 Minutes
 - Cross-Examined by 2AC: 3 Minutes
- Rebuttal Speeches
 - 1NR: 5 Minutes
 - 1AR: 5 Minutes
 - 2NR: 5 Minutes
 - 2AR: 5 Minutes



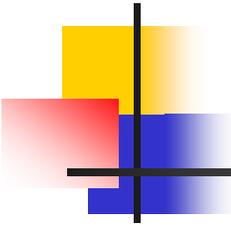
The Stock Issues

- **Topicality:** Is it germane?
- **Harm:** Is there a significant problem?
- **Inherency:** What is causing the problem?
- **Solvency:** Can the problem be solved?
- **Disadvantage:** Will the solution create more serious problems than the ones it resolves?



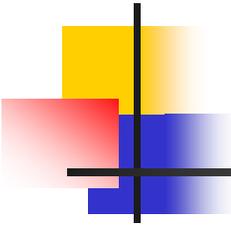
Constructive Speaker Burdens

- 1AC: Present a “Prima Facie” Case
 - Harm, Inherency, Solvency, Plan
- 1NC: Present the Negative Attack
 - Traditionally attacked the 1AC
 - More recently: Topicality, Disads, Case
- 2AC: Re-Defends Against 1NC
 - Follows 1NC point-by-point
- 2NC: Answer 2AC positions
 - Divide positions with the 1NR (division of labor)



Rebuttal Speaker Burdens

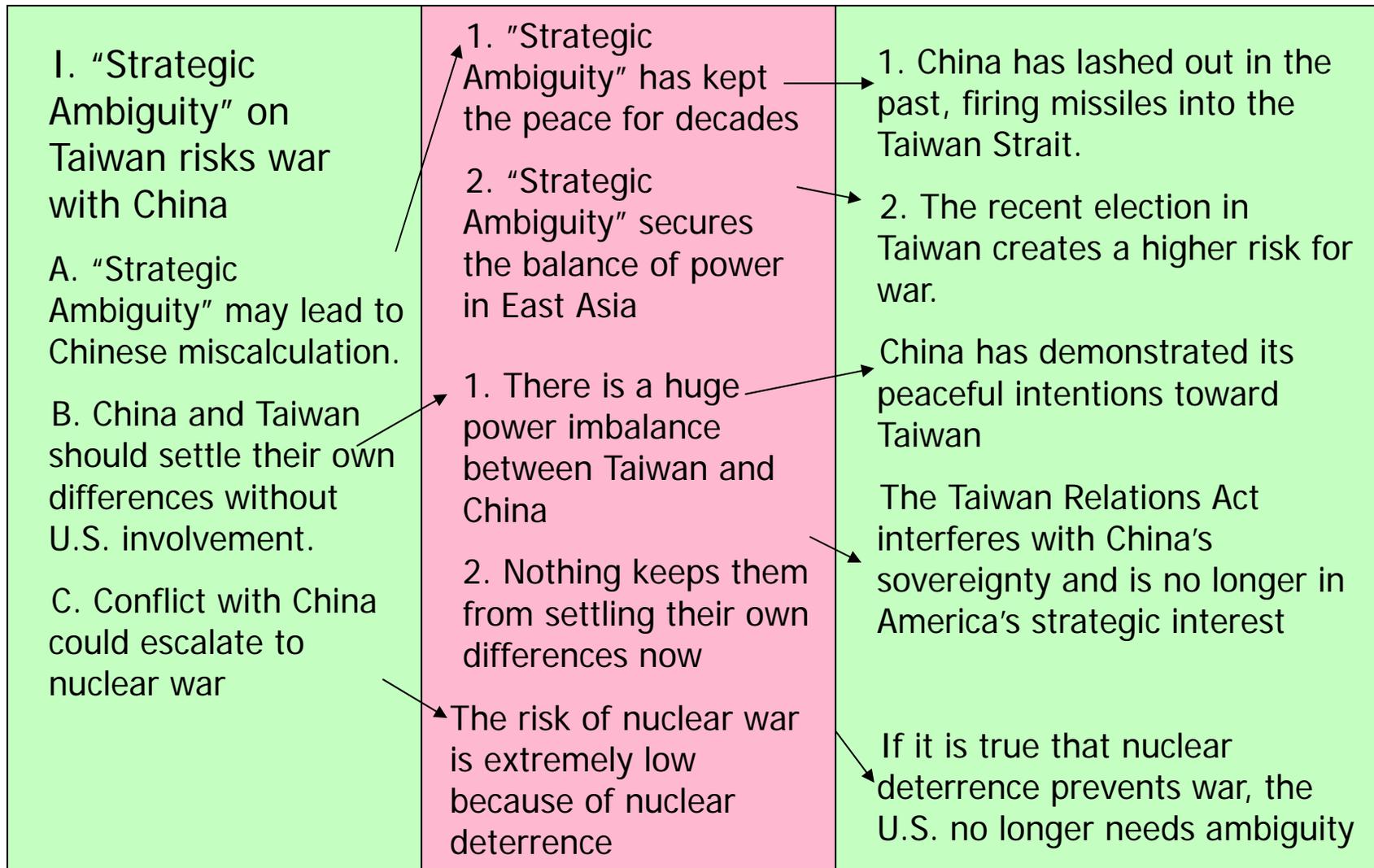
- No new arguments in rebuttal (new evidence OK)
- 1NR: Answer remaining 2AC arguments
- 1AR: Answer all 2NC & 1NR arguments
- 2NR: Extend winning negative arguments
- 2AR: Answer all remaining negative arguments & claim all affirmative positions that are no longer contested

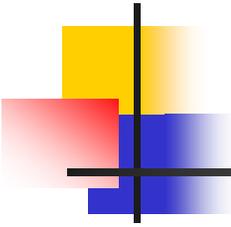


Cross Examination

- The speaker completing the constructive speech remains at the podium for questions
- Both questioner and respondent face the judge
- The questioner controls the cross examination period
- What to ask?
 - Set up arguments for later speeches
 - Use all of your time (it's prep time for your partner)

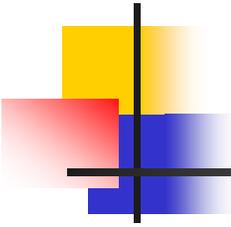
Keeping a Flow Sheet





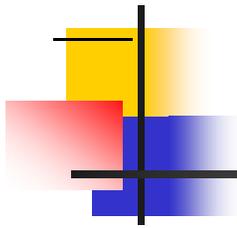
Flowsheet Tips

- Use abbreviations appropriate to the topic (C=China, PLA=China's military, etc.)
- Use symbols for common claims: (up arrow for increasing, down arrow for decreasing, right arrow for “causes” or “results in”, etc.)
- Establish priorities: 1. Contention labels first priority, 2. Supoints second priority, 3. Evidence reference third priority (Allard, '11), 4. Key words of evidence fourth priority.
- Teach debaters to ask for missed points (in CX or prep time).
- Use lots of paper (separate sheets for plan arguments and for case arguments; each big argument should have its own sheet).
- Line up flowsheet paper with debaters' “road-maps”



Judging Debates

- The affirmative team has the “burden of proof” – they must prove each of the stock issues that have been challenged by the negative team.
- Most judges won’t vote negative on an issue not raised by the negative team (i.e. – do not vote negative on topicality when the negative team has never made a topicality argument)
- The last two rebuttals are critically important; these issues are the ones the debaters believe to be most important.



The Decision

Div: _____ Rd: _____

Judge Name: _____

Affirmative

Points Ranks

Spkr 1: _____

Spkr 2: _____

Negative

Points Ranks

Spkr 1: _____

Spkr 2: _____

In my opinion, the better debating was done by _____