

BEFORE WE GET STARTED

**Register your
attendance.**

Session 318

LD: Framework & Contentions



SCAN HERE FOR
HOUSTON ROSTERS

LONE STAR COLLEGE- NORTH HARRIS, HOUSTON



LINCOLN-DOUGLAS DEBATE
FRAMEWORK & CONTENTIONS

STEPHEN GREEN

BEFORE writing a case, RESEARCH & conduct RESOLUTIONAL ANALYSIS .

RESOLVED: In the United States, agroecology ought to be prioritized over industrial agriculture.

BEFORE writing a case, **RESEARCH & conduct RESOLUTIONAL ANALYSIS** .

RESOLVED: In the United States,
agroecology ought to be
prioritized over **industrial**
agriculture .

REWRITE the resolution as a QUESTION to be answered. Helps create focus .

Should agroecology be prioritized over industrial agriculture in the United States?

The AFFIRMATIVE BURDEN is to prove the resolution true ;its PRIMA FACIE burden .

In the United States, agroecology
ought to be prioritized over industrial
agriculture.

The NEGATIVE BURDEN is to CLASH, NOT prove the INVERSE .

In the United States, agroecology **ought not be** prioritized over industrial agriculture.

In the United States, **neither** agroecology **nor** industrial agriculture **ought to be** prioritized.

In the United States, **both** agroecology **and** industrial agriculture **should be prioritized simultaneously.**

The FRAMEWORK is your theme and approach to the resolution .

AFFIRMATIVE

In the United States,
agroecology **ought to
be** prioritized over
industrial agriculture
**because agroecology
is better for HUMAN
& ANIMAL
WELFARE .**

NEGATIVE

In the United States,
agroecology **ought not
be** prioritized over
industrial agriculture
**because industrial
agriculture is better for
HUMAN LIFE .**

AFFIRMATIVE: Choose simple, easy-to-understand values that allow for broad impacts .

HUMAN & ANIMAL WELFARE

Allows me to address both human and non-human animals using the broad term of “welfare” rather than something more specific, which opens me up to more possible impacts and contentions.

NEGATIVE: Choose more narrow values that allow for specific, deep impacts .

HUMAN LIFE

Allows me to put all my effort into providing that industrial agriculture is better to keep humans alive, and how the affirmative doesn't do that. This also has more impacts, but allows me to deeply layer the impacts on the affirmative.

Choose **CRITERION** that actually measure the value. Keep them simple .

AFFIRMATIVE

In the United States, agroecology ought to be prioritized over industrial agriculture because agroecology is better for human and animal welfare **by MAXIMIZING SUSTAINABILITY** .

NEGATIVE

In the United States, agroecology ought not be prioritized over industrial agriculture because industrial agriculture is better for human life **by MAXIMIZING FOOD PRODUCTION** .

Criterion can be philosophies/theories , or you can make one up with an action word.

AFFIRMATIVE

In the United States, agroecology ought to be prioritized over industrial agriculture because agroecology is better for human and animal welfare **because it meets PETER SINGER'S UTILITARIANISM .**

NEGATIVE

In the United States, agroecology ought not be prioritized over industrial agriculture because industrial agriculture is better for human life **by MAXIMIZING FOOD PRODUCTION .**

Choose DEFINITIONS & write OBSERVATIONS that support your value & criterion.

AFFIRMATIVE

value **human & animal welfare** criterion **Peter Singer's utilitarianism**

agroecology

The design, development and management of **sustainable agroecosystems** based on the application of ecological principles while considering existing social, cultural, and economic factors of farming communities. ([USDA](#))

- **Why this one?** Resolution says "United States" and this is the government definition from the USDA website, so it's best.

ought

used to express obligation ([Merriam Webster](#))

- **Why this one?** I have no reason to get cute with it. This does the job.

Choose DEFINITIONS & write OBSERVATIONS that support your value & criterion.

AFFIRMATIVE

value **human & animal welfare** criterion **Peter Singer's utilitarianism**

prioritized

to list or rate (projects, goals, etc.) in order of priority ([Merriam Webster](#))

- **Why this one?** Two things can't hold the same rank in a list of goals.

industrial agriculture

large-scale, intensive production of crops and animals, often involving chemical fertilizers on crops or the routine, harmful use of antibiotics in animals (as a way to compensate for filthy conditions, even when the animals are not sick). It may also involve crops that are genetically modified, heavy use of pesticides, and other practices that deplete the land, mistreat animals, and increase various forms of pollution. ([Natural Resource Defense Council](#))

- **Why this one?** USDA didn't have one. This also argues for me.

Choose DEFINITIONS & write OBSERVATIONS that support your value & criterion.

AFFIRMATIVE

value **human & animal welfare** criterion **Peter Singer's utilitarianism**

human & animal welfare

the state of doing well especially in respect to good fortune, happiness, well-being, or prosperity ([Merriam Webster](#))

- **Why this one?** I have no reason to get cute with it. This does the job and applies to both human and non-human animals.

Peter Singer's utilitarianism

Provide the greatest happiness and least suffering for the most number of all living beings capable of suffering. (**Paraphrased from his book**)

- **Why this one?** Easy to follow plus includes non-human animals. PLUS, Singer specifically talks about welfare.

Compare your value against primal values like LIFE. Can you defend its importance ?

AFFIRMATIVE

value **human & animal welfare** criterion **Peter Singer's utilitarianism**

argument for LIFE

“There’s no reason to decide anything today unless we’re all alive. Life is the prerequisite to every other moral decision we make.”

argument for HUMAN & ANIMAL WELFARE over LIFE

“Simply being alive has never been enough. Animals of all sorts suffer and experience life in different ways. We should focus on what provides the most welfare while beings are alive and not merely being alive. Additionally, life is simply a stepping stone to a higher, more important value of what to do with the life we have.”

If you share a value/criterion, DO NOT FIGHT IT. “Better meet ” instead.

AFFIRMATIVE

value **life** criterion **maximizing sustainability**

NEGATIVE

value **life** criterion **maximizing food production**

GROUND FOR DEBATE?

“Both the affirmative and I agree that **life is the ultimate value**. Now, we **disagree on the best method** to help provide the most life. I argue maximizing food production better meets my value because food production is a prerequisite to making that production sustainable.”

You cannot DROP “evidence” supporting a philosophy . You only can drop the argument.

AFFIRMATIVE

value **human & animal welfare**

criterion **Peter Singer’s utilitarianism**

Singer is taking a moral approach similar approach to John Stewart Mills theory of Utilitarianism. **Singer and Mill both agree on the idea of selflessness, which is the idea that we can end human suffering by prioritizing the needs of society over any one individual.**

Singer's writings and ideas provide societies with the tools to solve ethical quandaries in the world – such as the problem of pain and suffering, which is experienced by all living beings capable of suffering, and this is often due to world poverty.

Baher Hussein, senior public affairs specialist for Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Minnesota, [2023](#)

Understand many different philosophies **& their purposes & problems** .

ACT UTILITARIANISM

Morality of an action is determined by specific consequences on happiness and suffering.

RULE UTILITARIANISM

Morality is based in rules that, generally, lead to the most happiness and least suffering.

PREFERENCE UTILITARIANISM

Morality is based in maximizing satisfaction of affected individuals' preferences rather than happiness or pleasure.

NEGATIVE UTILITARIANISM

Morality is determined by actions that produce the least suffering, which is more important than pleasure or wellbeing.

TWO-LEVEL UTILITARIANISM

Morality should generally follow rule utilitarianism but allow switching to act utilitarianism in critical decisions might lead to significantly bad outcomes.

IDEAL UTILITARIANISM

Outcomes are measured in more than pleasure and pain, but also values like beauty, truth, or knowledge.

MOTIVE UTILITARIANISM

Morality is based in the motive of an action intending to increase happiness while decreasing suffering, even if it doesn't in the end.

TOTAL/AVERAGE UTILITARIANISM

An action is moral if it seeks to maximize the total sum happiness or wellbeing across all. Average seeks to increase the average level of happiness.

Understand many different philosophies & their purposes & problems .

SINGER'S ACT UTILITARIANISM

BENEFITS

- Impartial & provides equality
- Highly practical & clear
- Flexible in preferences
- Focuses on reducing suffering
- Expands impacted parties

CRITICISMS

- Requires significant sacrifice
- People may conflicting preferences
- Allows for infanticide, euthanasia, and equalizing human and animal rights
- Removes the humanity from decisions
- Nearly impossible to measure

CONTENTIONS have three parts: **claim, warrant & impact.**

claim **CONTENTION 1: Agroecology minimizes harm to animal welfare.**

warrant Industrial agriculture, particularly factory farming, subjects animals to immense suffering through confinement, poor living conditions, and inhumane slaughter practices. Agroecology, in contrast, emphasizes humane treatment of animals, often promoting free-range and pasture-based systems that allow animals to express natural behaviors and live healthier lives. **By reducing the suffering of countless animals, agroecology better aligns with the principle of maximizing overall well-being, making it morally preferable. The significant reduction in animal suffering directly supports the value of animal welfare, and under a utilitarian approach, the less suffering inflicted, the more ethical the system. Therefore, prioritizing agroecology fulfills our ethical obligations to minimize harm to animals, which Singer's utilitarianism mandates.**

impact

CLAIMS/TAGLINES should rephrase **the resolution & value/criterion** .

CONTENTION 2: Prioritizing agroecology promotes human health and wellbeing.

Industrial agriculture often relies on practices that have adverse effects on human health, such as the extensive use of chemical pesticides, antibiotics in livestock, and the production of highly processed foods. These practices can lead to public health issues like antibiotic resistance, chemical exposure, and diet-related diseases. Agroecology, by contrast, promotes the production of healthier, less chemically-intensive food and supports diversified diets rich in nutrients. By improving the quality of food and reducing health risks associated with industrial farming practices, agroecology directly enhances human welfare. A 2021 report by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) recommended agroecology as a solution, in part, to “debilitating impacts on health.” By valuing local and traditional knowledge and linking it with scientific information, agroecology has the unique potential to succeed where current systems are failing, namely in reconciling concerns such as food security, ecosystem protection, biodiversity loss, climate change, nutritional health, poverty, social, ecological and economic inequalities, as well as other interconnected and complex challenges. From a utilitarian perspective, promoting practices that lead to better health outcomes for a large number of people is ethically necessary. By prioritizing agroecology, we can significantly reduce the negative health impacts of industrial agriculture, thereby increasing overall human well-being.

WARRANTS should prove your claim is true.

CONTENTION 2: Prioritizing agroecology promotes human health and wellbeing.

Industrial agriculture often relies on practices that have adverse effects on human health, such as the extensive use of chemical pesticides, antibiotics in livestock, and the production of highly processed foods. These practices can lead to public health issues like antibiotic resistance, chemical exposure, and diet-related diseases. Agroecology, by contrast, promotes the production of healthier, less chemically-intensive food and supports diversified diets rich in nutrients. By improving the quality of food and reducing health risks associated with industrial farming practices, agroecology directly enhances human welfare. A 2021 report by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) recommended agroecology as a solution, in part, to “debilitating impacts on health.” By valuing local and traditional knowledge and linking it with scientific information, agroecology has the unique potential to succeed where current systems are failing, namely in reconciling concerns such as food security, ecosystem protection, biodiversity loss, climate change, nutritional health, poverty, social, ecological and economic inequalities, as well as other interconnected and complex challenges. From a utilitarian perspective, promoting practices that lead to better health outcomes for a large number of people is ethically necessary. By prioritizing agroecology, we can significantly reduce the negative health impacts of industrial agriculture, thereby increasing overall human well-being.

Warrants can be LOGICAL – the argument is both VALID and SOUND.

CONTENTION 2: Prioritizing agroecology promotes human health and wellbeing.

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Agroecology, by contrast, promotes the production of healthier, less chemically-intensive food and supports diversified diets rich in nutrients. By improving the quality of food and reducing health risks associated with industrial farming practices, agroecology directly enhances human welfare.

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Warrants can be EMPIRICAL – the argument is proven with EVIDENCE .

CONTENTION 2: Prioritizing agroecology promotes human health and wellbeing.

Industrial agriculture often relies on practices that have adverse effects on human health, such as the extensive use of chemical pesticides, antibiotics in livestock, and the production of highly processed foods. These practices can lead to public health issues like antibiotic resistance, chemical exposure, and diet-related diseases. Agroecology, by contrast, promotes the production of healthier, less chemically-intensive food and supports diversified diets rich in nutrients. By improving the quality of food and reducing health risks associated with industrial farming practices, agroecology directly enhances human welfare.

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From a utilitarian perspective, promoting practices that lead to better health outcomes for a large number of people is ethically necessary. By prioritizing agroecology, we can significantly reduce the negative health impacts of industrial agriculture, thereby increasing overall human well-being.

Do not CLIP nor POWER TAG evidence.

“The report says pesticides are unhealthy and agroecology solves.”

The 2021 EU report on **pesticide residues in food** provides an overview of the official control activities on pesticide residues carried out in the EU Member States, Iceland and Norway. It summarises the results of both the EU-coordinated multiannual control programme (EU MACP) and the national control programmes (MANCP).

The analysis of the results from all reporting countries **is** presented in **a** data visualisation format, to provide stakeholders with a comprehensive, easily digestible analysis of the European situation related to the findings. The conclusions and recommendations derived from the results remain within this report, giving **risk** managers a tool **for** designing future monitoring programmes and taking appropriate decisions on which pesticides and **food products** should be targeted.

The report also **includes** the outcome of the risk deterministic assessment both acute and chronic to single substances. For the first time, a pilot methodology has been introduced to address the probabilistic **exposure** assessment to single substances, where probabilities of **exceed**ance of the **health**-based **guidance** value (HBGV) of pesticides has been calculated in different subpopulation of European consumers. The purpose of these calculation is to provide readers with a new insight into the risk of dietary exposure to pesticides.

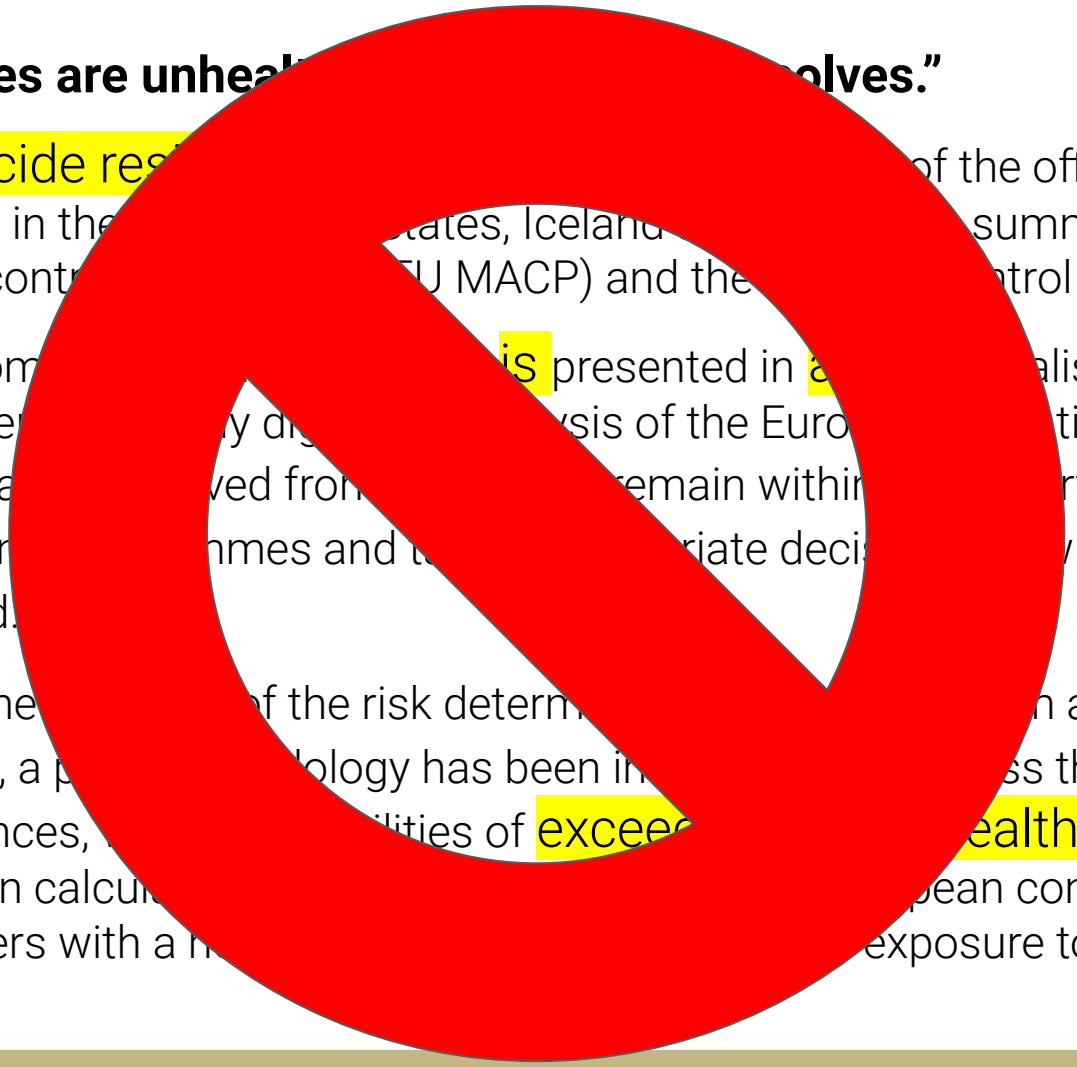
Do not CLIP nor POWER TAG evidence.

“The report says pesticides are unhealthy for humans and the environment.”

The 2021 EU report on pesticide residues carried out in the EU states, Iceland and the UK summarises the results of both the EU-coordinated multiannual control programme (EU MACP) and the national control programmes (MANCP).

The analysis of the results from the report is presented in a visualisation format, to provide stakeholders with a comprehensive and easy-to-understand analysis of the European situation related to the findings. The conclusions and recommendations derived from the report remain within the report, giving risk managers a tool for designing future monitoring programmes and taking appropriate decisions on which pesticides and food products should be targeted.

The report also includes the results of the risk determination for acute and chronic to single substances. For the first time, a probabilistic methodology has been introduced to assess the probabilistic exposure assessment to single substances, where the probabilities of exceeding the health-based guidance value (HBGV) of pesticides has been calculated for European consumers. The purpose of these calculation is to provide readers with a more realistic exposure to pesticides.



Use powerful, convincing evidence in its real context .(Quality over quantity.)

“Food system experts say agroecology solves a host of human welfare problems.”

Food systems in the European Union (EU) and around the world are facing a host of severe environmental and social challenges, and are falling short on sustainably providing healthy, safe, adequate and culturally appropriate food and nutrition for all. These systems are driving environmental degradation and loss of vital ecosystem services, economic hardship for farmers, socio-economic inequities, and for many, debilitating impacts on health and food security – and thus urgently need to be redesigned. Promoting new narratives, backed by science, practice and people, is fundamental to advancing the profound changes that are required in order to move towards sustainable food systems in the EU.

Agroecology, ‘the science of applying ecological concepts and principles to the design and management of sustainable agriculture and food systems’, has been identified by a series of landmark international reports as a key enabler for food systems transformation. Agroecology encompasses various approaches, including organic and regenerative farming, and includes amongst its goals the need to maximise biodiversity and stimulate interactions between different plant and animal species as part of holistic strategies to build long-term fertility, reduce pest and disease risk, protect freshwater systems, secure pollination services, safeguard healthy agroecosystems and secure livelihoods. By valuing local and traditional knowledge and linking it with scientific information, agroecology has the unique potential to succeed where current systems are failing, namely in reconciling concerns such as food security, ecosystem protection, biodiversity loss, climate change, nutritional health, poverty, social, ecological and economic inequalities, as well as other interconnected and complex challenges.

IMPACTS should link to the **criterion & value.**

CONTENTION 2: Prioritizing agroecology promotes human health and wellbeing.

Industrial agriculture often relies on practices that have adverse effects on human health, such as the extensive use of chemical pesticides, antibiotics in livestock, and the production of highly processed foods. These practices can lead to public health issues like antibiotic resistance, chemical exposure, and diet-related diseases. Agroecology, by contrast, promotes the production of healthier, less chemically-intensive food and supports diversified diets rich in nutrients. By improving the quality of food and reducing health risks associated with industrial farming practices, agroecology directly enhances human welfare. A 2021 report by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) recommended agroecology as a solution, in part, to “debilitating impacts on health.” By valuing local and traditional knowledge and linking it with scientific information, agroecology has the unique potential to succeed where current systems are failing, namely in reconciling concerns such as food security, ecosystem protection, biodiversity loss, climate change, nutritional health, poverty, social, ecological and economic

inequalities, as well as other interconnected and complex challenges. **From a utilitarian perspective, promoting practices that lead to better health outcomes for a large number of people is ethically necessary. By prioritizing agroecology, we can significantly reduce the negative health impacts of industrial agriculture, thereby increasing overall human well-being.**

Have OPTIONS for framework/contentions you SWAP based on JUDGES & CIRCUITS .

Environmental Sustainability & Preserving Ecosystem Health

Agroecology aligns with environmental sustainability by ensuring agricultural practices protect and maintain natural ecosystems.

Social Justice & Mitigating Structural Violence

Prioritizing agroecology addresses social justice by reducing systemic inequalities and harms in the agricultural system.

Public Health & Reducing Chemical Exposure

Agroecology enhances public health by minimizing the use of harmful chemicals.

Human/Animal Welfare & Singer's Utilitarianism Contention Options

1. Agroecology reduces animal suffering by promoting humane farming practices.
2. Prioritizing agroecology mitigates antibiotic resistance by reducing industrial livestock farming.
3. Agroecology supports healthier diets by producing more nutritious, diverse crops.
4. Agroecology preserves biodiversity, which is essential for long-term human and animal welfare.
5. Agroecology reduces the environmental harm that industrial agriculture imposes on human communities.
6. Agroecology minimizes the negative health impacts of industrial agriculture on farmworkers.
7. Agroecology enhances food security, reducing the risk of hunger and malnutrition.
8. Agroecology prevents ecosystem degradation, securing the natural resources vital for human and animal life.

Case LINK CHAIN should be “so simple ,it seems like it’s not enough .”

value **human & animal welfare**

criterion **Peter Singer’s utilitarianism**

contention 1 **Agroecology minimizes harm to animals.**

contention 2 **Agroecology promotes human health and well-being.**

contention 3 **Agroecology enhances long-term welfare by protecting the environment.**

SUBPOINTS prove the contention **TAGLINE** true OR the **INVERSE** of the claim.

value **human & animal welfare**

criterion **Peter Singer's utilitarianism**

contention 1 **Agroecology minimizes harm to animals.**

subpoint a **Agroecology allows animals to behave naturally.**

contention 2 **Agroecology promotes human health and well-being.**

subpoint a **Agroecology reduces chronic diseases.**

contention 3 **Agroecology enhances long-term welfare by protecting the environment.**

subpoint a **Agroecology increases soil fertility.**

SUBPOINTS prove the contention **TAGLINE** true OR the **INVERSE** of the claim.

value **human & animal welfare**

criterion **Peter Singer's utilitarianism**

contention 1 **Agroecology minimizes** harm to animals.

subpoint a **Industrial agriculture increases** harm to animals.

contention 2 **Agroecology promotes** human health and well-being.

subpoint a **Industrial agriculture decreases** human health.

contention 3 **Agroecology enhances** long-term welfare by
protecting the environment.

subpoint a **Industrial agriculture harms** long-term welfare by **hurting**
the environment.

CASE WRITING PROCESS

step 0 **research & analyze the resolution**

step 1 **write the value & criterion**

step 1.5 **write any observations & definitions**

step 2 **write contention & subpoint taglines**

step 3 **check to make sure the case links & make edits if needed**

step 4 **write the analysis for the framework, contentions & subpoints**

step 5 **find evidence backing up your claim**

step 6 **write an impact statement**

step 6.5 **find evidence to support (or be) your impact statement**

Do not write PLANS . Leave policy in policy. Providing possible alternatives may be fine.

affirmative runs a plan

“The purpose of LD is to debate the merits of an idea, not how the government should implement it. They have, at best, only proven part of the resolution true.”

****insert attacks on the specific plan****

negative runs a counterplan

“My opponent’s counterplan doesn’t meet their prima facie burden of clash. Simply proving their plan works doesn’t disprove me nor the resolution.”

affirmative claims the negative must run a counterplan or lose

“My opponent has the burden to prove what requires a negative to prove a counterplan. In any case, the function of this form of debate is on an idea, not a specific iteration of that idea.”

negative claims the affirmative must run a specific plan or lose

“This debate is supposed to be about if the idea of these policies are good or bad, not specific versions of these policies.”

Do not write PLANS . Leave policy in policy. Providing possible alternatives may be fine.

“How exactly are we going to enact this on a nationwide scale?”

“I’m not. As the affirmative, I’m arguing that agroecology should be chosen when the two are in conflict.”

“If you aren’t providing a plan, how do we know if the idea is actually good?”

“I believe my arguments apply to any version of an agroecological policy. If you believe otherwise, you have the burden to provide that evidence.”

“Do you provide any counterplan?”

“My job as the negative is to clash, not provide a counterplan. However, there are a number of alternative ways to achieve the same benefits you’re describing.”

“Without an alternative, the negative has no way to progress in the status quo.”

“This is simply untrue. I do not have to prove progress, but I can, and have, shown the affirmative how the status quo regresses in their world.”

Do not write PLANS . Leave policy in policy. Providing possible alternatives may be fine.

“My opponent claims that their policy is the only solution. This is a false dichotomy. These are all alternatives to the negative ‘counterplan’ other than industrial agriculture methods of production. All still fail to be as wide-reaching as agroecological approaches to food production.”

Conventional Agriculture (non-industrial, non-agroecological)

Sustainable Agriculture (non-agroecological)

Permaculture

Organic Farming

Regenerative Agriculture

Hydroponics & Aquaponics

Vertical Farming



STEPHEN GREEN

SMGREEN@CONROEISD.NET

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING



HOUSTON EVAL

We value your feedback!

Please complete conference evaluation **after your last session.**



LONE STAR COLLEGE- NORTH HARRIS, HOUSTON