## How to Use The 2AC Answers File

**HOW DO I USE THIS FILE?**

Debate is about being prepared for as many arguments as possible that your opponents may present. Right now, your coaches and senior team members are developing blocks for this affirmative case. We hope to generate up to 200 pages before the first tournament but you won’t need those in each round. For now just focus on pages the 1AC and the 2AC blocks. We will explain how and when to deploy the rest as the tournament gets closer.

**FORM VERSUS CONTENT:** The biggest mistake new debaters make is becoming overwhelmed by the **content** of the debate instead of focusing on the FORM. A nationally-competitive debate team, like NYU, will research between 5,000 and 10,000 articles on the new debate resolution each year. **NO DEBATER memorizes, learns or is even familiar with every card in the file.**  That is not the point. Evidence is a tool not a goal. Your goal is to learn HOW to use the evidence by understanding when to read evidence, recognizing what positions to read evidence against and organizing evidence and arguments to present them as persuasively as possible to your judges. In many team sports like soccer, basketball, football and baseball, the coach works with the team by developing plays and understanding offense and defense. In the game, the trick is to execute those plays against your opposition. The 2AC files and the blocks we will help prepare for you are your playbook.The only positions you should try to familiarize yourself with are your case (the 1AC) and your core negative strategies.

**WHAT IS A CORE NEGATIVE STRATEGY?** We’re not going to spend a lot of time on the negative here because this is about the 2AC but here’s a quick summary. Your coach will help you determine your core negative strategy (the negative positions you will read as a default in each round unless told otherwise by your coaches) but this year it will likely consist of 1 Disad, 1 Kritik, and 1 counterplan. All of these positions can be found in the dropbox in the Negative folder, if you would like to start reading them over. If you understand your case and your core negative positions, you will be able to explain to the judge why you are winning the debate and why your opponent’s arguments won’t defeat you. If you don’t understand those basic concepts, your chances of success are very low.

**WHEN AND HOW DO WE USE THIS FILE?** The easiest way to explain the 2AC is that it’s a HEAR & REACT SPEECH. You hear the opponents say something, you react by locating a document that responds to it and then you read those collection of documents in your speech in an organized manner. As you know from the earlier portion of this document, the debate begins with the 1A reading a pre-written case in the first constructive (1AC) and the negative reading their rudimentary elements of their strategic attacks in the first negative constructive (1NC). All of that will occur without any prep time. While the neg is reading its positions, the affirmative will have access to either a flash drive with the positions on it, an email that they get before the speech or a paper version of the arguments that you will be able to pick up and read as they finish each page. **IT IS VITAL THAT YOU FLOW YOUR OPPONENT’S ARGUMENTS AND NOT JUST RELY ON THE COPY OF INFORMATION YOU RECEIVE.** As the negative reads its position, you should determine first what type of argument it is: PROCEDURAL (TOPICALITY, PLAN FLAW, FRAMEWORK), DISADVANTAGE, CRITIQUE, COUNTERPLAN OR CASE ATTACK. Notice: We didn’t say the 2AC should read through their entire position, try to understand exactly what it means, and then find the file. **THAT IS NOT HOW DEBATE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS FUNCTIONS.** You must learn to *trust your files*. Your coaches and senior debaters have heard the arguments you’re debating against hundreds, if not thousands of times. We’ve considered all of the angles it could take and provided you with answers that will defeat it. Trust your blocks and let them do the heavy lifting for you.

Procedurals, disadvantages, critiques, and counterplans are referred to as **off-case positions.** These are positions that don’t directly attack the case. Most teams before the 1N starts will give you a speech order called a “roadmap” in which they will tell you how many off-cases they will read. (3 off and solvency means they would be reading three different offcase positions and then attacking “on-case” your observation that your plan solves. The 2AC should first determine as quickly as possible what positions are being read and then select the correct files to read in response.

**HOW TO PERSONALIZE THIS FILE AND YOUR ARGUMENTS:** The BEST answers you can make are ones you write in advance that leverage the arguments in your 1AC combined with key realizations you glean from the opponents’ speeches and cross-examinations. We encourage you to personalize these blocks and incorporate your own arguments. This file contains **blocks (**sets of **prepared** answers to negative attacks) to over 90 of the most likely positions that your opponents might read divided into sections: Topicality (T), Counterplan (CP), Critiques (K), Disadvantages (Disads), and case answers. The off-case positions are identified by subject matter (e.g Anthropocentricism, Biopower, Capitalism) or by author (Agamben, Bataille) based on how most teams categorize them.They are already set up in “debate-speak” meaning you don’t have to do anything except read them once you’ve located the right file. During the 1NC, start locating your blocks, cut and paste it into a new word document entitled (**2AC vs. Neg Team with their initials, tournament name and round #**). Time is of the essence so don’t get involved in your partner’s cross-x, just prep your answers. If you are not sure what type of position it is, what authors it uses or how it applies to your case, have your partner ask those questions in cross-examination while you are locating the correct files. If you locate the correct file while your opponents are still reading that position, make a note on your flow of how many answers you are going to read and write a short description (e.g 1. nl would mean my first answer was no link). Your partner should transpose your blocks onto the flow if you are flowing on the computer or back-flow your arguments (meaning write them once for themselves and once for you) if you’re flowing on paper. It should take you less than 3 minutes to locate all of your blocks you need since they are mostly in this one file so by the time cross-examination is over, you should be ready to stand up and give your 2AC. If you are ready before the end of the cross-x, spend time looking over the answers so you will have a better understanding of them. At the end of your partner’s c/x, , take one minute of prep to double-check with your partner if there was anything important that came out of c/x that needs to be mentioned. You should use no more than 3 minutes of prep for the 2AC. No one votes on the 2AC so save the balance of your prep time for later in the debate. The other two minutes can be spent familiarizing yourself with the answers you are about to read, adding additional answers at the bottom of the block**,** if you noticed something about their argument that you wish to address andpre-flowing your arguments.

Sometimes, we will know what the likely positions are that opponents will read and you can just review the blocks we suggested before the round.

**SOME FINAL NOTES**

**1--If you can’t find specific answers to the position you need, please make generic answers. Don’t drop positions.**

**2--For some of the topicality arguments which are less common, all you have Is a counterinterpretation and a definition. You will need to add in a few more answers in the round so here are 4 more:** 4-default to reasonability, our affirmative is clearly a reasonable example of the topic. 5. Their interp is arbitrary and self-serving. Ours provides the best scope for debate. 6-Ground checks- we defend against instrumental disads and abstract critiques, our interp turns all their ground arguments 7. Their interp encourages abusive PICs because we have to defend massive amounts of the topic, we’d never be able to defend every tiny subsection and program and would lose on miniscule net benefits, destroying aff ground.

**3- If the case or a block is too long for you to read, don’t worry.** The coaches can work with you to highlight down the affirmative and make it more manageable without hurting the potency.