

PS 114S. International Security in a Changing World Section Debate Rules¹

Resolved: North Korea poses a more serious nuclear threat to United States national security interests than Russia.

In formulating a response to this claim, think about the following:

- What does the resolution mean by ‘serious nuclear threat’?
- Why is proliferation dangerous? Under what conditions?
- What systemic or international factors make the Russia or North Korean programs more dangerous?
- How do the domestic politics of each country affect the risk of proliferation or the likelihood of their use?
- How probable is the risk posed by each country? Why?
- What is the timeframe for this risk to materialize?

Roles and Debate Format

Team Sagan (Judge #1): 2 – 4 people

Team Waltz (Judge #2): 2 – 4 people

Judging: Two teams will adjudicate the debate by role-playing as if they are either Professors Scott Sagan or Ken Waltz. Judges will not disclose who “won” the debate (which is impossible to determine in such a short amount of time anyway), but evaluate the strength and weaknesses of each argument in relation to what Professors Sagan and Waltz would have to say about the debate and the threat of these two country’s nuclear programs.

Team North Korea (Aff): 2-4 people

Team Russia (Neg): 2-4 people

Debaters: Two teams will debate the resolution; they should either defend the claim or oppose it on some level, but the degree to which they do so is entirely up to them. They should specify how the US should deal with the threat. **Each speech must be made by a different person on the team**, but any individual from a team may ask or answer questions during cross-examination.

¹ Created by Iris Malone 2016. Please do not circulate without author’s permission.

Debate Format:

The debate will be structured by the following time format:

- Affirmative Speech #1: 3 minutes
- Negative Speech #1: 3 minutes
- Cross-Examination (Affirmative will question Negative): 2 minutes
- Affirmative Speech #2: 2 minutes
- Negative Speech #2: 2 minutes
- Cross-Fire/Cross-Examination (Negative will question Affirmative): 2 minutes
- Final Affirmative Rebuttal: 1 minute
- Final Negative Rebuttal: 1 minute

Judge Evaluations (3-4 min/team)