



Oregon School Activities Association
25200 SW Parkway Avenue, Suite 1
Wilsonville, OR 97070
503.682.6722 fax: 503.682.0960 www.osaa.org



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2014 OREGON NOVICE DEBATE CASE AREAS

Each year, the OSAA designates a set of “Oregon Novice Debate Case Areas” in order to limit debate through December at Oregon debate tournaments offering a Novice division. Oregon debate coaches have requested that the OSAA limit the topic area in order to encourage Novice participation by selecting topics that offer a balance between the affirmative and the negative positions, provide relatively easy research for everyone and provide the opportunity for meaningful case debate, rather than generic argumentation.

The presentation of an affirmative case approach included within one of the case areas listed below does not preclude the legitimate option of the negative to challenge the topicality of any plan presented. The issue of topicality is still to be decided within the round.

In addition to restricting Novice teams to the following cases, it is Oregon policy that neither Kritiks nor counterplans may be presented in Novice divisions during the period of restriction.

The following four topics (all of which have been recommended as “Novice Case Areas” by the NFHS) will be designated as “Oregon Novice Debate Case Areas” on the 2014-15 National Policy Debate Topic.

1. Ratify (Accede) to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea so that resources of the Arctic can be developed by the U.S.
2. Increase development of offshore aquaculture in U.S. Ocean waters
3. Increase federal oil and/or gas leasing on the outer continental shelf
4. Increase offshore renewable energy development (offshore wind, ocean thermal gradients wave power, or tidal barrages)