



Stoa

Special Announcement

Board Statement Regarding the Team Policy Resolution (2024-2025)

The Stoa Board is excited for the upcoming Team Policy debate season dedicated to healthcare reform. This policy area has never been debated in Stoa and offers a plethora of interesting, relevant, and important debates. Because of this, we want to provide guidance to promote a positive season for everyone.

As members of the Board, we have a responsibility to work to ensure that all Stoa activities honor and glorify the Lord and the current resolution offers numerous opportunities to do so. However, we recognize that certain aspects of this resolution could raise sensitive issues, especially for younger competitors, and we want to address that potential problem before the competitive season begins.

As Christians, Stoa competitors should avoid cases that put competitors in a potential situation of debating a position that opposes Christian principles. For example, affirmative cases proposing to abolish, limit or curtail abortion, abortifacient drugs, euthanasia, fetal tissue harvesting, transgender surgeries, physician assisted suicide, embryonic stem cell research or cloning could cause negative teams to feel like they need to defend these practices. Introducing such cases is impermissible. While we encourage Christians to study and understand these difficult issues, we want to allow parents to choose when to introduce these subjects to their children; therefore, cases featuring these issues should not be raised in a Stoa debate round.

In providing this guidance, it is not possible to delineate in advance every morally problematic case. We encourage students, parents, and coaches to pray about the matter and use the list of topics above as guidance for avoiding other cases involving sensitive topics.

Thank you for your cooperation and support. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us. We truly want you all to experience the blessings and favor of the Lord throughout the year.

The Stoa Board of Directors
July 29, 2024