

FALL 2019 BEGINNER DIVISION CORE FILES (AFFIRMATIVE)

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First Affirmative Speech (1AC)

Note: you have **4 minutes** for the constructive speeches (including the First Affirmative Constructive, aka “1AC”) – you should practice reading it in time. If you can’t read it all, try **underlining or highlighting** the most **important parts of the evidence** – and re-reading the speech without the unimportant parts to save time.

Also try circling our **highlighting** words and phrases where you might add **emphasis** – you will give this speech a lot, and you should get good at making it sound exciting / like you care about the issue. If you want to get good speaker points from your judge, make the speech interesting!

First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Contention 1: Inherency

Many states that previously adopted early voting now are reducing early voting opportunities while also making registration more difficult. Ohio demonstrates this trend.

Lynch, senior diplomatic reporter at Foreign Policy, **2018**

(Colum, "Why Is It So Hard to Vote in America? Voter turnout lags in the world's most powerful democracy." Foreign Policy November 5 2018

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/05/why-is-it-so-hard-to-vote-in-america/> accessed DUDA TM)

Some states have alleviated the issue by allowing early voting. But since 2010, seven states have scaled back early voting periods, according to the Brennan Center. In 2011, Ohio Republican lawmakers eliminated the so-called golden week—which allowed voters to register and vote on the same day for a six-day period. More than 80,000 people voted during the golden week in 2012.

First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Contention 2 – Democracy Advantage

Multiple studies show that states that have had cuts to early voting had lower voter turnout and participation in elections

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

It is also worth noting that cuts to early voting can have a detrimental impact on voter participation. A 2016 study by The Atlantic found that, in North Carolina counties with polling place closures and reductions in voting hours, during the first week of early voting, black voter participation reached only 60 percent of the cumulative participation at the same point in 2012. And while participation increased some in the weeks leading up to the election, black participation never reached more than 90 percent of the cumulative participation in 2012.¹³⁴ At the same time, in 2012, after the Florida Legislature cut the state’s early voting period from 14 days to 8 days and eliminated voting on the last Sunday before Election Day, early voting participation for African Americans dropped by 4.1 percent relative to 2008, while participation for Latinos dropped by 4.6 percent.¹³⁵

And, obstacles to voting and low turnout rates are the real problem in US democracy

Lynch, senior diplomatic reporter at Foreign Policy, **2018**

(Colum, “Why Is It So Hard to Vote in America? Voter turnout lags in the world’s most powerful democracy.” Foreign Policy November 5 2018
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/05/why-is-it-so-hard-to-vote-in-america/> accessed DUDA TM)

“If we are really going to address problems of voting, we would really try to expand participation by making it easier to vote and increasing our turnout,” said the ACLU’s Ebenstein. “But a lot of states are looking to do the opposite, to narrow and restrict the electorate. The real problem with our democracy is turnout.”

First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Additionally, these anti-voter policies specifically have impacted people of color – and only adopting pro-voter reforms can reverse this trend.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Beyond this, studies have found that a negative relationship exists between voter disenfranchisement and black participation, even among those not directly involved in the criminal justice system. For example, in communities with high percentages of disenfranchised black voters, eligible black voters are less likely to vote.²⁰⁰ This negative relationship exists even when there are pro-voter reforms such as early voting and same-day registration.

For the US’s democracy to work correctly, all eligible Americans must have a chance to vote.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Almost 92 million eligible Americans did not vote in the 2016 presidential elections.¹ In the 2014 midterm elections, an estimated 143 million eligible Americans failed to vote, marking the lowest voter participation in 72 years.² For the nation’s democracy to function properly and for government to provide fair representation, all eligible Americans must have the opportunity to vote—and be encouraged to do so. Our collective self-rule is established and fostered through free, fair, accessible, and secure elections through which the voice of every eligible American is heard.

First Affirmative Constructive Speech

Thus, we offer the following plan:

The United States should adopt same day registration and expand early voting across the country.

Contention 3 – Solvency:

Early voting and easier registration in combination will allow both programs to reinforce the other for better voter turnout.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

These pro-voter policies are mutually dependent and reinforcing. For example, the effectiveness of more convenient voting options—including early voting, vote-at-home, and no-excuse absentee voting—depends on eligible voters being registered. As aptly described in a report by the director of the Elections Research Center at the University of Wisconsin, Barry C. Burden, and others, “The additional convenience of early voting is worthless to a potential voter who finds that she is actually not registered, and therefore unqualified to vote.”²³ At the same time, the benefits of registration modernization cannot be fully realized if voters do not have opportunities to exercise their civic duty. Moreover, these policies often complement each other. Whereas early voting on its own has been shown to increase participation by about 2 to 4 percent, early voting combined with same-day voter registration has increased voter participation by 4.2 to 11 percent where it has been implemented.²⁴

Supporting Evidence & answers to negative arguments

Please note: the following pages **may** be useful for affirmative speeches after the *First Affirmative Constructive*.

This evidence is provided to help you challenge the negative's arguments, mainly in the Second Affirmative Constructive speech. Only **some** of this evidence will need to be read in your debate, depending on what arguments your opponent makes.

We **discourage** you from reading evidence in the final Rebuttal speeches (1AR, 2NR, 2AR). This is **not** a rule – you can do it if you like – but your rebuttals will be better and score you more speaker points if you use your speech time to analyze and compare your arguments to the ones your opponent has made – rather than just reading more of the following pages. Most judges want to watch you engage your opponent's arguments directly, rather than watching you read page after page of evidence every speech.

One more piece of advice: you should actively **listen** to your opponents' speeches, and track the specific arguments they are making by taking notes ("flowing" the debate). In your rebuttals, aim to make reference to their arguments and respond to them directly as time allows – don't rely entirely on pre-written speeches that aren't unique to the situation of your debate round.

Early voting currently restricted

Multiple states increasing requirements for voting or shrinking early voting time frames

Lynch, senior diplomatic reporter at Foreign Policy, **2018**

(Colum, "Why Is It So Hard to Vote in America? Voter turnout lags in the world's most powerful democracy." Foreign Policy November 5 2018

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/05/why-is-it-so-hard-to-vote-in-america/> accessed DUDA TM)

Since 2010, 22 states have passed laws requiring photo IDs or curtailing early voting, according to the Brennan Center for Justice, a nonprofit public policy institute at New York University Law School that promotes democracy and justice. (Some of the most controversial laws have been challenged in lawsuits or struck down by courts.)

Lack of registration excludes poor and racial minorities

Communities of color, poor and disabled population disproportionately less likely to be registered to vote.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Certain groups are less likely to be registered to vote; these include communities of color, low-income Americans, those with disabilities, and young people.⁵⁰ In 2016, 69 percent of black and 57 percent of Hispanic Americans were registered to vote, compared with 72 percent of whites.⁵¹ Asian Americans were 16 percent less likely to be registered to vote than whites.⁵² Furthermore, in 2012, only 66 percent of American Indians and Alaska Natives were registered—7 percentage points lower than their white counterparts.⁵³ A shocking 20-point gap exists in registration rates between Americans making less than \$25,000 per year and individuals making \$100,000 or more per year.⁵⁴ Eligible Americans with disabilities are also less likely to be registered to vote—by about 2 percentage points—than people without disabilities.⁵⁵ And in 2012, 735,000 potential voters were prevented from having their names added to the voter rolls because of language barriers in the registration process.⁵⁶

Simplifying registration increases minority participation in elections

And, improving voter registration rates closes the gaps in voter participation amongst white and minority voters.

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Improving the voter registration process can decrease gaps in voter participation between demographic groups. For example, in 2016, white voting-age citizens participated at a 63 percent rate, while voting-age citizens of color participated at a 53 percent rate.⁵⁹ However, the participation gap decreases significantly between registered whites and registered people of color: 87.78 percent versus 84.91 percent, respectively. Therefore, while the participation gap between eligible white citizens and eligible citizens of color is 10 percentage points, among registered citizens, the gap is only 2.87 percentage points.

If all states had early voting, studies modeled an increase of nearly a million voters in the 2016 elections

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

Early voting: One study found that early voting can increase participation by about 2 to 4 percent.¹⁶ Eliminating early voting has also been found to decrease turnout in communities of color.¹⁷ According to the authors’ calculations, if all states had early voting in place during the 2016 elections, there could have been at least 789,500 more voters.

Answer to: “Voting restrictions don’t exclude minorities”

The changes occur in a context of larger racial bias making the effect of the changes much larger on people of color

Newkirk, writer for the Atlantic Magazine, **2018**

(Vann, “Voter Suppression Is Warping Democracy” The Atlantic, JUL 17, 2018
<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2018/07/poll-prri-voter-suppression/565355/> accessed DUDA-TM)

These results add credence to what many critics of restrictive voting laws have long suspected. First, voter-ID laws and other, similar statutes aren’t passed in a vacuum, but rather in a country where people of color are significantly less likely to be able to meet the new requirements. Whether intended to discriminate or not, these laws discriminate in effect, and while there is no evidence that they’ve averted any kind of fraud, there is plenty of data detailing just how they’ve created Republican advantages. In that way, Trump’s chances in 2016 may have turned not only on the approval or disapproval of white voters, but also on how effectively state laws, access issues, and social penalties conspired to keep black and Hispanic voters away from polling places.

Increased voter participation essential to democracy

Early voting and mobilization will increase turnout and turnout matters in very close elections in the United States

Root, Associate Director, Voting Rights **AND Kennedy**, Senior Fellow Increasing Voter Participation in America, **2018**

(Danielle and Liz “ Policies to Drive Participation and Make Voting More Convenient” Center for American Progress July 11, 2018,
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/democracy/reports/2018/07/11/453319/increasing-voter-participation-america/> accessed DUDA-TM)

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, early voting is permitted in 33 states and the District of Columbia, though early voting opportunities vary in terms of timing and location.¹³⁶ And, although more research is needed on its overall effectiveness at increasing participation, early voting could prove powerful when combined with active mobilization efforts. Even if the policy’s impact on participation is relatively small, during a time when margins of victory are so close that elections are decided by lot, every vote counts.¹³⁷

Democracy good – economy, public health

Democracy is good because provides multiple benefits including stronger economy and better health outcomes for people living in democracies

Rice-Oxley, writer for the Guardian Newspaper, **2019**

(Mark “Democracy is good for your health and heart, major study find”. The Guardian. March 13 2019 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/mar/13/democracy-is-good-for-your-health-and-heart-major-study-finds> DUDA TM)

Democracy is good for your heart, health and longevity, a major study of 170 countries has concluded, in a boost to a form of government that has faced significant setbacks around the world in recent years. Life expectancy improved more quickly in countries that switched to democracy over the past 50 years, the researchers discovered, and there were fewer deaths from cardiovascular disease, diseases such as cancer and cirrhosis, and even road traffic accidents. The study, published in the Lancet, said it was not just that democracies tended to be richer: the “democracy effect” was far stronger than any GDP effect. “Free and fair elections appear important for improving adult health ... most likely by increasing government accountability and responsiveness,” the study said. “Democracies are more likely than autocracies to lead to health gains.”

Democracy good – prevents political violence

Democracy provides nonviolent ways to express opinions – and elect a new leaders if they make a bad choice

Inglehart, professor of political science University of Michigan, **2018**

(Ronald “The age of insecurity: Can democracy save itself” Foreign Affairs, 97(3), May June 2018 <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-04-16/age-insecurity> accessed DUDA-TM)

Moreover, democracy has a major advantage over other political systems: it provides a nonviolent way to replace a country's leaders. Democratic institutions do not guarantee that the people will elect wise and benevolent rulers, but they do provide a regular and nonviolent way to replace unwise and malevolent ones. Nondemocratic leadership successions can be costly and bloody. And since democracy enables people to choose their leaders, it reduces the need for repressive rule. Both these advantages have helped democracy survive and spread.

Answer to: “Democracy is stable / won’t go away”

Democracy not inevitable – a slide to authoritarianism is possible

Inglehart, professor of political science University of Michigan, **2018**

(Ronald “The age of insecurity: Can democracy save itself” Foreign Affairs, 97(3), May June 2018 <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/2018-04-16/age-insecurity> accessed DUDA-TM)

But there is nothing inevitable about democratic decline. Rising prosperity continues to move most developing countries toward democracy-although, as always, the trajectory is not a linear one. And in the developed world, the current wave of authoritarianism will persist only if societies and governments fail to address the underlying drivers.

If new political coalitions emerge to reverse the trend toward inequality and ensure that the benefits of automation are widely shared, they can put democracy back on track. But if the developed world continues on its current course, democracy could wither away. If there is nothing inevitable about democratic decline, there is also nothing inevitable about democratic resurgence.

Answers to Negative's "Election Security Disadvantage"

Lots of security measures already in place

Multiple non-governmental efforts to assist in election security efforts

Sanger, et al, 2019

(David E. “States Rush to Make Voting Systems More Secure as New Threats Emerge” NYTimes July 26, 2019

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/26/us/politics/states-voting-systems.html> accessed DUDA-TM)

Figuring out where to start is not hard. There are a flurry of studies and reports, including the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, Harvard’s “Defending Digital Democracy” program that trains campaign workers and state officials, and a new Microsoft program, Election Guard, that the company is providing free to states and election-machine manufacturers so that voters can track their ballots from casting to counting.

Security isn't coordinated going into 2020 – tampering is inevitable

Trump prevents full coordination of security efforts – means that the impact of hacking is inevitable

Sanger, et al, 2019

(David E. “States Rush to Make Voting Systems More Secure as New Threats Emerge” NYTimes July 26, 2019

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/26/us/politics/states-voting-systems.html> accessed DUDA-TM)

And despite a flurry of activity across the federal government, coordination is a major challenge — chiefly because President Trump, who has only episodically acknowledged the Russian interference in 2016, reacts badly whenever aides bring up the topic, which he interprets as questioning the legitimacy of his election.

He has never overseen detailed meetings about hardening the American system, and he undermined a White House briefing for reporters about actions it was taking when he joked with President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia, mockingly warning him not to interfere in elections again. Because the administration eliminated the post of White House cybersecurity coordinator last year, interagency meetings on the issue are often held elsewhere, or are convened by House and Senate oversight committees.

Russia won't manipulate the 2020 election

US creates threats when it comes to Russia – no Russia master plan

Topol, 2019

(Sarah "What Does Putin Really Want?", New York Times Magazine, June 25, 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/25/magazine/russia-united-states-world-politics.html>)

Russia has long been a canvas on which Americans project their thoughts or fears — of the Red menace, and of Putin's quest for world domination. This tradition only accelerated after the 2016 election, when it seemed as if everyone were an expert on Putin's agenda. There wasn't an election he didn't hack, a border he wouldn't violate or an American ally he couldn't manipulate. The very word "Putin" has come to symbolize a coherent, systematic destruction of the post-Cold War international order. But no one I spoke with who had an intimate knowledge of Russia saw that as anything but fiction. Instead, they talked about Russia's strides back onto the world stage as improvised reactions, tactics, gambles that were at times more worrisome than masterful.

States have received the funding they need already

Every state already received funds for election security already – should have fixed the problem

Lynch and Underhill, National Conference of State Legislatures, 2019

(Dylan and Wendy, “Election Security | Cybersecurity: What Legislators (and Others) Need to Know” National Conference of State Legislatures February 4 2019

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/election-security.aspx> accessed DUDA-TM)

Every state received a base of \$3 million, with the remaining funds distributed based on voting age population. Small states received just the base amount, and the largest state, California, received \$34 million (see this chart for state-by-state details).