

Junior B, Round Two

TOPIC: That schools should provide free lunches for their students.

1. Type of Topic

This is a normative/model debate. This means that the Affirmative should propose a 'model' (a policy on how this idea would be implemented). This model should be clearly described to outline what changes the Affirmative team will make to the status quo, and how these changes will be enacted. The Negative team can either support the status quo (that is, the current education system and attitude towards the purpose of video games) or propose a counter-model. This counter-model must be different from the status quo, but also different from the model the Affirmative team is suggesting. The Negative team should ensure they clearly identify whether they are supporting the status quo or proposing a counter-model.

2. Background / Context

Many countries, such as the United States of America, Brazil, Finland or Japan provide free lunches to school students. This is often done for the purpose of fighting against poverty and the hunger of children and can possibly provide other benefits to societies. There are a number of challenges with providing free lunches for students such as whether it is best for parents to individually provide for their children, as well as with other possible concerns such as wastage or quality.

It is important to keep in mind that since this is a model debate, the affirmative team can not be extensively challenged over questions of whether funding free lunches would be feasible, though there can still be debates on whether it is the best allocation of funding overall; i.e. the negative team may argue that the money used to fund free lunches would be better spent elsewhere, but they may not argue it would not be possible to fund free lunches.

In Australia, though there have been trial programs in some regions or states, there is no national program for providing free lunches to students.

3. Questions for Consideration

- What other ways could the government deal with child hunger and poverty?
- What are the different types of ways students can currently get their lunch?
- Are there more examples of free lunch programs which may be relevant? How have these examples been implemented, and have they successfully achieved their goals?
- Can free lunch programs effectively cater for dietary requirements, taste or other factors which may be unique to different students?
- Does the government have the responsibility to feed children? Are parents the ones who hold this responsibility?

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