



South Australian Debating Association Inc

## Intermediate B, Round 3

*“that celebrities have a moral responsibility to promote vaccines”*

### 1. Type of Topic

This is an empirical (test) debate. This means that neither team can propose a model, or any kind of policy change within the world; instead, you are debating a statement about the world as it currently exists. The affirmative team needs to argue that celebrities have a moral responsibility to promote vaccines, and the negative team needs to argue the opposite, that celebrities do not have a moral responsibility to promote vaccines. This will require teams to decide upon a test, that is, a set of criteria they use to determine whether it is the moral responsibility of a celebrity to promote vaccines, and the negative team can either accept the affirmative team's test, or disagree with it and propose their own test. A good test usually has around three criteria, and each argument they raise relates to the test. It is important for teams to demonstrate how each argument they raise relates to the test. In the affirmative team's case, each argument should demonstrate how one or more criteria of the test are met, and in the negative team's case each argument should demonstrate how one or more criteria of the test are not met.

### 2. Background / Context

Celebrities endorsing vaccination is not a new occurrence. In 1956 Elvis Presley received the Salk vaccine against polio in a public display of his support for the vaccine, which led to a successful campaign to eliminate polio in the United States. In the 1980s, Roald Dahl, an author of children's books, advocated for vaccinations after the death of his daughter from measles in 1962.

Today, many celebrities are also using their public platforms to promote vaccinations, in the hope that it will motivate more people to get vaccinated. However, not all celebrities use their platforms for such a purpose. Some of these celebrities may simply never discuss the subject, while some may even campaign against vaccination.

In this debate, it is not enough for an affirmative team to demonstrate that celebrities promoting vaccines is beneficial, but rather this debate is asking you to consider whether they have a duty to do so.

### 3. Specific Questions for consideration

- What is a moral responsibility?
- Do people have a duty to do something just because it causes benefit?
- What does it mean to be a celebrity?
- What is the role of celebrities in society?
- What special privileges/powers do celebrities have that most people don't?
- Does being a celebrity come with any responsibilities? What are these responsibilities?

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