

Ivy Parliamentary Championship

Columbia University Feb. 26-27

Motions

THW: This house would

THS: This house supports

THR: This house regrets

THBT: This house believes that

THP: This house prefers

USFG: United States Federal Government

Round 1:

- THS right to work.
 - “Right to work” refers to laws that prohibit obligatory union membership for certain professions (i.e. without right to work laws, employees of a unionized company are obligated to join the union and pay dues).
- THP strong trade unions (e.g. the union negotiating with the company to raise wages) over direct government intervention in labor practices (e.g. the federal government setting rules on workplace conditions).
- TH, as the CEO of Starbucks, W recognize a Starbucks workers’ union.

Round 2:

- THW replace the current college admissions process to be a lottery-based admissions system.
- THR charter schools.
 - A charter school is a school funded through public funds (taxation) but is operated by a private company. They are open to all students and do not charge tuition.
- TH, as the USFG, W tax US universities with over 100 million dollar endowments as for-profit corporations.

Round 3:

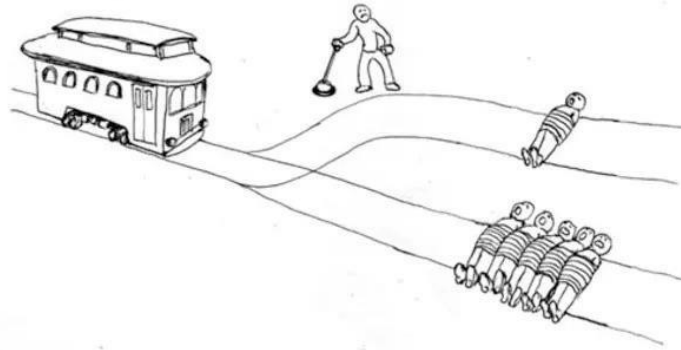
- Assuming a tradeoff exists, THBT political parties should prioritize spending on local campaigns (e.g. mayor, state representative, city council etc) instead of campaigns for federal office (e.g. House of Representatives, Senate, presidency etc).
- Assuming a tradeoff exists, THBT governments should prioritize geoengineering over limiting carbon emissions.
 - Geoengineering refers to altering the earth’s climate (e.g. making clouds, placing reflectors in orbit around the earth, etc) in order to make human life sustainable and comfortable despite climate change.
- THR urban rent control. Rent control refers to local policies obligating certain %s of apartments be available at below market rates as low-income housing.

Round 4:

- THBT Facebook should apply their third-party fact checking algorithms to politicians.
- TH, as a parent, W not let their children use smartphones until the age of 14.
- THR the US patent system.
 - The US patent system grants exclusive rights to inventors for 20 years (i.e. another person cannot use that invention to make money for 20 years).

Round 5:

- TH, as the observer in the Trolley Problem, W pull the lever.



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- The “observer” is the individual depicted as standing at the lever. If the observer does nothing, the 5 people will die, if the observer pulls the lever, 1 person will die as opposed to the 5.
- THP a compulsory organ donation system to an opt-in system (caveating religious exceptions).
 - The status quo in the US is an opt-in system whereby when getting a driver’s license, individuals can choose to be organ donors upon their death. A compulsory system is one where individuals are obligated to give their organs upon their death (assuming medical need), with reasonable exceptions made for religious reasons.
- THBT forgeries should not be considered art.

Octas / Novice Semis -- Social Justice

- TH prefers a criminal justice system that pursues criminal and civil charges against individuals within companies, rather than fines against the entire company.
- On balance, THBT social justice movements are aided by social media platforms.
- THW, as the British museum, give back the Elgin Marbles.
 - The Elgin Marbles are a collection of Greek marble sculptures. Originally in the Parthenon, they are now on display at the British museum, having been taken by the Earl of Elgin in the early 1800s.
 - Thought of as a great cultural artifact of ancient Greece, recent decades have been marked by renewed attempts from the Greek government (and other actors) to demand a return of the Elgin Marbles so they can be restored to the Parthenon.

Quarters / Novice Finals -- THR Media

- THR superhero movies.
- THR the myth of Santa Claus.
- THR the narrative that good triumphs over evil in children’s fairy tales.

Semis -- Grand thinking

- THR the invention of the wheel.
- THP a world where only one language has ever existed.
 - This language would be a common language that shares no characteristics with any known language, past or present
- THR agriculture.

Finals – Space, the **final**, frontier

- Assuming we have discovered less advanced extraterrestrial alien life, THW avoid all contact and keep our existence a secret unless/until they have discovered space travel themselves.
- THP a world with Vulcan Stoic Philosophy as the dominant narrative.
 - The guiding principle of Vulcan Stoic Philosophy is: “there is only one way to happiness, and that is to cease worrying about things which are beyond the power of our will.” This means that you ignore all emotion and prefer hyper rationality.
- You are a scientist working at CERN. Working alone one night, you make an accidental breakthrough in your research that will allow humanity to travel faster than the speed of light. You are alone in the lab and the odds of someone else making the same accidental breakthrough are non-existent. THW destroy the research.