

38th Annual Rollin G. Osterweis Debate Tournament

Yale University

Sunday, April 7, 2018

Motions by Round

Varsity Round 1

Information slide

Music streaming is a service in which users can listen to a library of music without buying individual songs or albums. Each time a user listens to a song via the service, streaming companies pay royalties to record labels or independent artists with rights to that song.

Royalties per listen are around \$0.00735 (Apple Music), \$0.00437 (Spotify), or \$0.00133 (Pandora Premium). Users pay streaming companies a subscription fee or, in some cases, use a free version with advertisements and limited features.

Motion

This house regrets the rise of music streaming services.

Varsity Round 2/Novice Round 1

This house believes that history curricula taught in public schools should not be designed to promote national pride.

Varsity Round 3/Novice Round 2

Information slide

Congestion pricing is a system of charging drivers for using public roads during peak times (i.e. rush hour).

In 2003, London began to implement congestion pricing in high-traffic areas, using automatic license plate recognition. Starting in 2021, downtown and midtown Manhattan will have congestion pricing.

Motion

This house would implement congestion pricing.

Varsity Round 4/Novice Round 3

Information slide

In recent years, Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has weakened democratic institutions in the country (e.g. he has censored media, imprisoned some political opponents, and filled courts with his supporters). Meanwhile, Venezuela has faced increasing economic difficulty and violence, with many struggling to access basic resources such as food and medicine. On January 10, 2019, Juan Guaidó, the President of the National Assembly (a legislative body) and member of the opposition, challenged Maduro's claim to the Presidency. 54 countries, including the U.S. and most of South America, recognize Guaidó as Venezuela's legitimate President, but Maduro continues to exercise power.

Motion

This house believes that the international community should intervene in Venezuela.

Novice Semifinal Round

Information Slide

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a federal government agency that invests \$39.2 billion annually in medical research for the American people. The NIH is funded using taxpayer dollars, and its budget is set by Congress. Most of the \$39.2 billion is awarded via competitive grants to research academics applying for research funding.

Research priorities and funding allocation are determined by decision-makers who evaluate current opportunities and public health needs. In some cases, this leads to funding rates that do not correlate with US burdens of disease.

For example, HIV/AIDS receives the 2nd largest amount of funding but is 45th of 75 in US disease burden. By contrast, coronary heart disease is 5th in US disease burden but receives the 18th largest amount of funding.

Motion

This house believes that the NIH should apportion research funds proportional to the US burden of disease.

Varsity Semifinal Round

This house regrets the social expectation to have children.

Varsity and Novice Final Round

This house believes that governments should prioritize policies that reduce inequality over policies that increase economic growth.