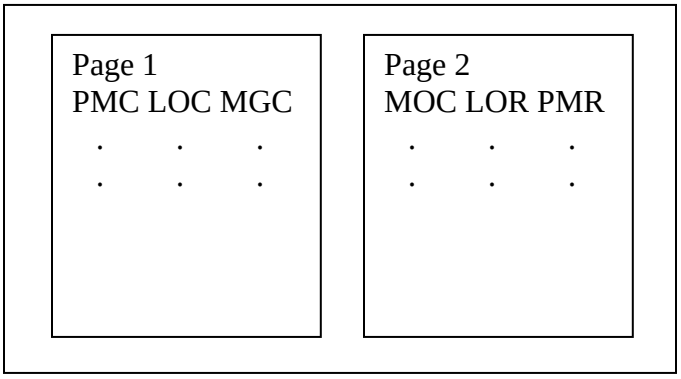
Flow Chart[1] of the Final Round
Connecticut Debate Association
Warde High School, January 11, 2025
THBT the US should not defend Taiwan militarily.

The final round at Warde was closed out by Joel Barlow. The team of Owen Fellows and Zachary Colangelo was on the Government against their schoolmates Cade Fravel and Griffin Speck on the Opposition. The debate was won by the Opposition.

Format Key

I take notes on an 11" by 14" artist pad. The two pages below are formatted to print in portrait mode on 8 ½ x 11 paper. The first page covers the first three constructive speeches: the Prime Minister's Constructive (PMC), the Leader of the Opposition's Constructive (LOC), and the Member of Government Constructive (MGC). The second page covers the Member of Opposition Constructive (MOC), the Leader of Opposition Rebuttal (LOR) and the Prime Minister's Rebuttal (PMR). The pages are intended to be arranged as follows, which is how my actual flow looks:



In general, the constructive speeches have arguments related to the Government contentions towards the top, and those relating to the Opposition contentions towards the bottom. Some debaters draw a line across the middle to separate the Gov and Opp, but it is hard to judge how much room you need for each until you hear the debaters. I adjust the top and bottom halves best I can.

This flow organizes the arguments logically, not necessarily in the order in which they were presented. Some speakers will deal with Opposition arguments prior to the Government. Some speeches will be completely disorganized, and I place the arguments to best illustrate clash. Accompanying this is a "transcript" version of the debate which presents the arguments in the same order as each speech proceeded.

The chart uses "G1," "O2," etc. to refer to the Government first contention, the Opposition second contention and so forth.

Points of Information are indicated by "POI:" and this marker, the question and the answer are in boldface italics.

Prime Minister Constructive	Leader of the Opposition Constructive	Member of Government Constructive
1) Introduction 2) Statement of the motion 3) "This House": US Federal Government 4) Definition: "defend Taiwan militarily" resist an invasion of the island a) US has stated it will defend Taiwan b) We will not send troops 5) Plan a) US will facilitate negotiations for a China/Taiwan union like the EU 6) G1[2]: Defense v negotiations a) We would lose a war i) In event of blockade, Taiwan only has 8 days of fuel ii) PRC's army 12 times that of Taiwan iii) Many US soldiers would die iv) $10 trillion trade losses v) Loss of access to microchip production b) Negotiations i) KMT party in Taiwan favors this ***POI: How long to build semiconductors in US?*** (1) A few years for new factories to come online ii) Lose access to chips immediately if a war iii) Negotiate retain access to factories and production 7) G2: No economic need to defend Taiwan a) Semiconductors are indispensable i) Chip factories very sensitive to disturbance ii) e.g., small earthquake takes offline for months iii) war would certainly damage them b) So war/no war would lose access to chips c) No chance to win the war (G1) ***POI: If goal is chips, why destroy factories?*** i) Ukraine, Gaza shows can't control destruction 8) G3: Defense not worth it a) US doesn't recognize Taiwan as a country b) US lost 50,000 lives each in Korea and Vietnam	1) Intro 2) Weighing: which best protects the economy, morality and US geopolitical status 3) Plan? a) If there is a war, it means diplomacy has failed 4) G1: If US can't win, why should China agree to commonwealth? a) If US won't fight, no leverage in negotiations b) This is no solution! 5) G2: 10 years or more before US factories can be built a) May be worth it in the long run b) Before that, US has no chips, can't defend itself c) Implies Taiwan of geopolitical importance to US d) Why would China threaten war? i) Because Taiwan would resist e) Chip factories hypersensitive i) Weeks to fix Taiwan factories ii) Years to duplicate them in US	1) Intro/motion 2) G1: Why would China negotiate? a) China pays cost of war too i) Incentive to negotiate to prevent ***POI: Has China shown respect for lives of its own citizens?*** ii) Good point, but still needs soldiers, leave answer for my partner b) Time to build factories in US? i) Not a good reason not to build a domestic supply 3) G2: China and chip factories? a) China has incentive not to destroy them in war, but we can't rely on that 4) Weighing a) Opp: fights a war for no reason b) Gov: build infrastructure in the US c) Morality: Opp means China, Taiwan, US lives
	1) O1: Defending Taiwan protects the economy a) Agree with Gov that semiconductors are indispensable i) Most sophisticated chips made in Taiwan ii) Communications and technology depend on them b) If China controls Taiwan, it can set price, limit access 2) O2: Moral imperative to defend Taiwan a) D-Day anniversary shows some sacrifices are worth it b) If we don't defend Taiwan i) Look at loss of rights in Hong Kong w/similar "union" ii) Ethnic Taiwanese, dissenters will end up in jail ***POI: Lives will be lost in a military action?*** iii) That's war compared to genocide iv) War's losses limited; occupation unlimited c) No diplomatic solution is possible i) Can't trust China ii) Look at fate of Taiwan d) We accept the Gov definitions i) But to be clear, defense in case of military conflict	1) O1; China can't take control ***POI on targeting*** i) War is unpredictable ii) Bombs vs earthquakes ***POI: Easier to fix bomb damage than build new?*** iii) Yes, consider G2 iv) China doesn't have chip factory engineers v) 90-100 needed per factory vi) Equipment company won't provide them 2) O2: Who is making the sacrifice? a) Opp thinks war will be over in weeks b) Gov sees long war of attrition

[2] "G1" indicates the Government first contention, "O2" the Opposition second contention and so forth.

Member of Opposition Constructive	Leader of Opposition Rebuttal	Prime Minister Rebuttal
1) Intro 2) G1: Diplomacy? a) Hong Kong shows this won't work 3) G2: Chips: war is unpredictable a) Repair vs build new factories 4) G3: US "Taiwan not a country" doesn't reflect reality a) Has to do with US/China policy b) Still have trade, travel, etc. 5) Weighing a) Jobs in US unlikely i) Repair is quick ii) 10-year loss of chips will affect economy, military b) Moral to fight a war? i) Compared to loss of country to a dictator ii) China has killed more Chinese than Stalin did Russians	c) Intro d) Impacts on US, Taiwan, World e) Avg Americans? i) More jobs in US ii) Vs 10-years loss of semiconductors (1) US military weapons out of date (2) China could attack South Korea iii) On Opp this doesn't happen (1) US military stronger than China (2) Protects semiconductor access f) Taiwan? i) Diplomacy? Why would China agree? (1) POI never answered ii) Taiwanese send to camps, no rights g) Geopolitics? i) Gov: US military outdated (1) Just delays a war	h) Opp neglects the reality of war i) Taiwan out of fuel ii) US military lacks capability iii) Taliban withstood 20 years and $ trillions iv) How would we beat China (1) China hasn't fought a war in 50 years? (2) Has US won a war in 50 years? v) Can Opp protect Taiwan's liberties? (1) US doesn't always win wars i) Decades to build chip factories? i) Gov plan continues the status quo ii) Keeps access to chips j) Can we trust China? i) If China respects agreement, it works ii) If not, China risks a war it doesn't want (1) Regimes with unhappy people don't last (2) Destruction leads to stagnation, terrorism iii) US can effect change iv) Take a chance for peace!
1) O1: Economic interests a) Semiconductors: war could cause some destruction i) Easier to fix than build new factories ii) China has money for engineers b) Engineers: China's tech is advanced i) e.g., Electric vehicles, other tech ii) can't assume they don't have capability c) If we don't defend? i) Decade to rebuild in US ii) No chips for US: weapons, missiles, GPUs, etc 2) O2: Death a) D-Day reminds us of the costs i) But sacrifice for greater good ii) China genocide, breaks agreements ***POI: How can we beat China if we can't beat the Taliban?*** iii) US only used part of its military b) Only one article in packet said US would lose i) China hasn't fought a war in decades c) Chips are importance i) Every device has a chip ii) Lose Taiwan, no chips for 10 years		