

## Research Package #2

### (Junior and Senior High)

*Sr High: "This House Believes That pharmaceutical companies should hold patents on medical discoveries"*

*Jr High: "Be It Resolved That pharmaceutical companies should hold patents on medical discoveries"*

***Be sure to define patents and understand the economical and moral implications of having a patent on a drug.***



**WITH THESE PRICES, IT'S NO WONDER THAT YOU SELL SO MANY ANTIDEPRESSANTS**

## Mid-Year Topic (Nov./Dec./Jan.) 2012 - 2013

We no longer differentiate topics as "policy" or "values". Use a model if it is helpful, but both practical and values arguments are accepted at all levels of debate.



*"I'm thankful for the incredible advances in medicine that have taken place during my lifetime. I almost certainly wouldn't still be here if it weren't for them."*

*-Billy Graham*

*"It is clear that the pharmaceutical industry is not, by any stretch of the imagination, doing enough to ensure that the poor have access to adequate medical care."*

*-Paul Farmer*

Sr High: "THBT pharmaceutical companies should hold patents on medical discoveries"

Jr High: "BIRT pharmaceutical companies should hold patents on medical discoveries"

**The Proposition Team supports the resolution and will say "YES"**

**The Opposition Team opposes the resolution and will say "NO"**

Both Proposition and Opposition Teams will try to pick about 3 or 4 good reasons to support their position and try to develop each by going through 4 steps:

1. State your point.
2. Explain your point.
3. Provide evidence in support of your point (give an example).
4. Explain how that evidence proves your point (tie it back to your theme).

Each argument will look like this:

**Point #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

Tie point to theme: \_\_\_\_\_

**Point #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

Tie point to theme: \_\_\_\_\_

**Point #3:** \_\_\_\_\_

Explanation: \_\_\_\_\_

Example: \_\_\_\_\_

Tie point to theme: \_\_\_\_\_

# PROPOSITION TEAM

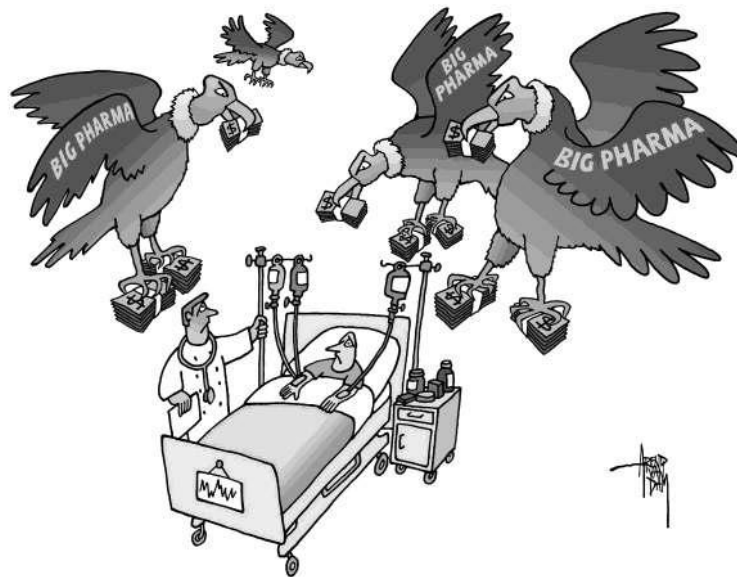
The job of the Proposition in any debate is to persuade the judges that the resolution should be supported. In order to accomplish this, there are a number of steps that the Proposition team must go through.

- 1) Define the resolution (Make sure everyone is clear upon what the Proposition is debating).
- 2) Present a Model (if needed)
- 3) Present arguments in favor of the resolution.
- 4) Refute Opposition attacks on the Proposition case. (Show why the Opposition is wrong and the Opposition is correct).

Owing to time restrictions, the Proposition duties are normally divided up between the first and second Proposition speakers. It is customary for the first proposition speaker to present two arguments followed by the second speaker who presents the final argument.

## AN EXAMPLE OF A PROPOSITION STATEMENT

Drug research is expensive and if a company can guarantee a patent and have access to that particular formula to make the drug then they know they will make a large profit. With this guarantee of profit, research will continue and as we know it takes millions to develop new drugs. We need to encourage companies to keep the incentives to make discoveries in the first place and this is impossible without the patent.



Here are some arguments that the Proposition can use in developing their case that pharmaceutical companies should hold patents on medical discoveries.

- If one company has access to a successful drug patent then money is guaranteed as no one else can see how to make that drug. This money can then be reinvested to their scientists in hopes of discovering a new drug, and a new patent
- If we want new drugs to keep being developed, we need to give people strong incentives to do research. The best way to do this is to give companies patents on their drugs, so that they can make money.
- Patent laws exist is because our society believes that people should own their own inventions and ideas. Just like any other inventors, drug companies have a right to own the drugs that they invent.
- Drug patents don't last forever, other companies are still allowed to make cheaper generic drugs after the patents time out.
- Drug patents encourage competing companies to develop unique drugs that all treat the same illnesses, rather than all selling the same drug. This gives consumers more choice, allowing them to pick the drugs best suited to them.
- Creating new drugs is both necessary and very expensive. If we do not cover these costs by paying high prices for drugs, either drug companies will need government subsidies, or we will have to rely entirely on government-funded research. Both of these alternatives will be less efficient and more expensive in the long run.
- If anyone can use the research and findings of drug companies, the companies have an incentive to release as little information as possible to the public. This slows the rate of new research which could use that information.

# OPPOSITION TEAM

The job of the Opposition is to be disagreeable! Whatever the Proposition believes, generally, the Opposition counters. The more you disagree, the better! The Opposition has to convince the judges not to accept the Proposition resolution.

The Proposition wants to convince the judges that their proposal should be adopted.

The Opposition wants to convince you that the Proposition proposal should not be accepted for one or more reasons.

The steps that the Opposition should use are:

- 1) Either agree with the Proposition definition or propose a definition of your own. (Only disagree if absolutely necessary. These make for messy debates).
- 2) Rebut the Proposition arguments in favor of the resolution.
- 3) Attack the Proposition Model and sometimes propose a counter model
- 4) Present reasons (arguments) to oppose the resolution.
- 5) Refute Proposition attacks on the Opposition case (show why the Proposition is wrong and Opposition is right).

Owing to time restrictions, the Opposition duties are divided between the first and second opposition speakers.

It is the custom for the First Opposition Speaker to present two arguments and the second opposition speaker to present the final argument. (This is flexible!)

## AN EXAMPLE OF AN OPPOSITION STATEMENT

Giving companies patents for any drugs they develop allows them to set whatever price they want. Supply and demand can only work when items are non-essential. When people need a certain drug to live, they are willing to pay any price. Many drugs for serious diseases cost hundreds of dollars per pill. This is clearly exploitation, and it is morally wrong to allow companies to keep people from getting treatment.

Some of the arguments that the Opposition can use in developing their case that Alberta should NOT allow pharmaceutical companies to hold patents on medical discoveries”

- The developing world simply can't pay the prices that many companies are demanding for life-saving medications. Allowing the development of cheap generic drugs gives all these people a chance to get the treatments they need.
- Giving a drug company a complete monopoly on a drug that many people need lets the companies exploit the people by charging whatever price they want.
- Because drug companies are profit-driven, they will reinvest their profits into whatever makes them the most money in the short term, not what helps society in the long term.
- Large profits are not necessary to encourage people to become scientists. Many researchers work for low pay because the chances to gain fame or help society already provide enough incentive.
- Waiting for drug patents to end simply isn't a realistic way to get cheaper drugs because companies often abuse the legal system to find ways to extend their patents as long as possible.
- Drug patents place a huge incentive on being the first to bring a drug to the market, which encourages companies to rush their research. This carries the risk of bringing inferior drugs to the market.

THE ARTICLES HERE HAVE BEEN EDITED, REPHRASED & ANNOTATED

# RESEARCH

This Research booklet is not complete. It is only an overview of information and good debaters will use this booklet as a basis for their thinking and move on to other ideas and research. As well, the best foundation for any research into a topic begins with some basic reading on the ideas. Follow this with an interview with someone who is knowledgeable, can suggest ideas and can direct you to other ideas and research. Although you cannot quote this person unless he/she is published in print or on video, a human being can always explain issues better than an article.

## Other Electronic Resources:

### Drug Patent Law

- [http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/applic-demande/guide-ld/patmedbrev/pmreg3\\_mbreg3-eng.php](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/prodpharma/applic-demande/guide-ld/patmedbrev/pmreg3_mbreg3-eng.php)
- <http://www.law.umaryland.edu/marshall/crsreports/crsdocuments/RS21129.pdf>

### Drug Development:

- <http://www.fda.gov/drugs/developmentapprovalprocess/howdrugsaredevelopedandapproved/default.htm>
- [http://www.innovation.org/drug\\_discovery/objects/pdf/RD\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.innovation.org/drug_discovery/objects/pdf/RD_Brochure.pdf)