



2019 – 2020 Research Package

Topic 1: THBT the cost of space exploration (social, economic, etc.) is justified



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This research booklet is intended as a starting point for both junior and senior high students. Debaters are expected to conduct their own additional research and broaden the scope of the debate to encompass other areas of discussion beyond what is presented here.

Model and Definition

Proposition team should create fair and balanced definitions for the debate.

Criteria may clarify to the judges a team's position and can be a valuable tool. Proposition teams should consider what it means for something to be "justified." In what areas should something be "justified" (listed examples include social and economic, but there can be many more). How will "justified" be measured?

Potential Proposition Points

1. Exploration creates value

The process of exploration itself demands significant raw materials, infrastructure investments, and technical expertise that helps drive industry. Resources found in space can also become valuable commodities in the future. All of this creates economic value that helps offset the costs incurred by space exploration programs to begin with.

2. Exploration is crucial in expanding our knowledge

Space offers a unique environment to perform experiments that will further our understanding of our own planet. This is important as it will facilitate the creation of new products or services that are useful for people (ex.satellites), as well as equip us with more knowledge to deal with problems on Earth.

3. Exploration is core to human nature

Curiosity is a core part of what makes us human. The social benefit of inspiring a generation of children to become interested in natural science (the way the moon landing did) is important.



Potential Opposition Points:

1. Exploration on Earth is more vital

Humans have not fully explored their own Earth. Approximately 65% of the Earth's surface has not yet been explored. We must first focus our exploration efforts on discovering the unknown's of our Earth, to further knowledge, advancements in medicine and technology and the future of humanity.

2. Exploration is dangerous

Many lives have been lost through past missions. These missions are an economic threat to our society and also contribute to lost lives for the sake of exploration. From a social standpoint, exploration of space should not be undertaken unless and until safety can be guaranteed.

3. Exploration of space is a luxury we cannot afford

With issues such as wars, civil unrest, world hunger, poverty and climate change, investing our time and money into the exploration of space is a waste of these precious resources. Instead, we must direct our efforts to our communities. Exploration of space is a desire but what humanity needs is to focus on solving issues on Earth first and foremost.

