



2019 – 2020 Research Package

Topic 2: THBT the world should focus on adapting to the effects of climate change rather than trying to avert it.



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Model and Definition

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

The model may clarify to the judges Proposition team's position and can be a valuable tool. Proposition teams should consider sort of actions encompass "adapting" versus actions that "avert" climate change, and what the process of adapting from one to the other may look like. Please note that an exceedingly detailed model is not required. Rather, a general approach to the issue that is sufficient to give judges a clear picture of what your side stands for will be sufficient.

Potential Proposition Points

1. Averting climate change is no longer possible

There is evidence that the Earth is rapidly approaching (or has already passed) crucial tipping points in climate change. Therefore, continuing attempts to avert climate change is an inefficient use of resources and effort. Therefore, a pivot towards adapting to climate change sooner rather than later will be more effective.

2. Policies that adapt to climate change are more likely to be politically acceptable

Climate change denial makes it challenging to find politically palatable solutions to avoid its effects. In contrast, investments in infrastructure and policies that adapt to/mitigate climate change (ex. building flood walls) would be far more acceptable (because these types of investments often give localized benefits such as employment) and, therefore, likely to occur

3. Adaptation to climate change provides immediate relief

Even with highly effective climate change averting global policies, the climate will still take decades to return to a more acceptable equilibrium as residual heat stores release their stored energy, forests and biodiversity returns, etc. This is unacceptable for the individuals who are being affected by climate change in a devastating way right now. Adaptation to climate change includes policies that, in comparison, can provide much needed relief at a far more acceptable time frame.



Potential Opposition Points

1. It's not too late to avert the effects of climate change

Now that we are aware of the problem of climate change, we have the ability to act on it before it's too late. If steps are taken now to mitigate the effects of climate change, we can ensure the Earth's core temperature does not increase heavily. When there is still time to prevent a worse outcome, it should be availed.

2. Advancements in technology

With the current advancements in technology such as Tesla's energy saving cars, we are more than equipped to avert the effects of climate change. By continued funding into technology, it is much more likely that we will be able to avert these effects. When we are at a point where we have made these discoveries, we must utilize them to the best of our abilities.

3. There are no alternative options available to sustain humanity in the future

As governments, we must think not only of our current citizens but our future generations. With no other viable solution currently on the table, our only option is to continue to preserve our Earth. As a species, it is our duty to do what we can to survive. This includes averting the effects of climate change.

