

## **SAMPLE First Affirmative Constructive Speech**

**Resolution: “Be it resolved that students shall be allowed to wear appropriate hats in classrooms.”**

*This speech is normally 5 minutes in length.*

*Teams may divide up a speech in any logical way. This sample one is divided up for a team of 3.*

“Mr./Madam Chairperson, honourable judges, worth opponents, ladies and gentlemen:

“The resolution before us today is that students be allowed to wear hats in the classroom. We the affirmative define a hat as any article of clothing that covers the head but which is independent of any other article of clothing. For example, the hood of a “hoodie” would not be defined as a hat and would not be acceptable under the policy change we propose. A classroom is any room in the school building in which lessons take place.

“The affirmative has three needs for change. First, we recognize that rules of etiquette change over time and schools are slow to keep up. They need to be better. Second, we affirm that no harm is caused by wearing hats in class to the learning process. The third support for our contention is that boosting student morale is bound to help improve student performance in the classroom.

My partner will now continue. [partner continues]

“In the first place, it is clear that social norms of dress and fashion change over time. While we concede that at one time wearing hats indoors was a sign of disrespect, anyone who goes out in public places realizes that hats are regularly

being worn by adults in places like restaurants, concerts, and stores. Obviously, times have changed. Why can't the school follow suit?

"There was a time in our grandparents' time when wearing sneakers in school was taboo. Sneakers were only for gym class. That was also a time when girls only wore dresses and guys always dressed up for school. Our modern American culture is less formal than the olden days. There is no good reason why the school should impose rules that are no longer valid. If the purpose is to prepare us for the "real world", shouldn't the school reflect the values of that world?

"For our second point, it is clear that wearing hats would cause no harm to the learning environment. Following from our first point, the hat worn indoors is no longer something strange or cause for alarm. Students are not distracted by things they consider obviously normal and commonplace. We readily admit that, like all portions of the dress code, the design, logo, and message of hats must be appropriate for a public school context and conform to the values of our community. Appropriate hats would pose no difficulty.

"Everyone knows that students, or adults for that matter, work best in a comfortable environment. We students face even tougher standards than did our parents or grandparents. We're expected to know more and sooner in our academic careers. All the more reason why granting the simple, harmless request of being able to wear our hats in class, something we can do in just about any other public place anyway, something all the adults we know do in the normal course of their life, would go a long way to boosting our morale. This, in turn, is bound to have some positive effect on our learning.

My partner will now continue. [partner continues]

"I will now outline our plan which has need of only point to address each of these needs for change. We propose that the school policy be updated at the earliest

possible time to allow a provision such as we resolve here: namely, that hats of an appropriate nature be allowed to be worn in classrooms.

“In conclusion, the affirmative has shown clear needs for change. Fashion has changed, no disruption would come to the learning environment, and the morale boost is bound to improve our performance in our jobs as students. It’s a small thing to ask.”

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In Discussion Style, the next constructive speech starts.

In Cross-examination style: “I now stand for cross-examination.”