

## **NSDA Public Forum Debate (Fall 2023)**

Topic: Arctic Militarization

### **PROS AND CONS OF ARCTIC MILITARIZATION (VOTING ISSUES)**

#### **VOTING ISSUE-01 (PRO): Improving Security**

*We believe the most important argument is... improving security.  
[or "another important argument is..."]*

*Because... if we increase our military presence in the arctic, then it will help counter Russia's military expansion, will promote stability throughout the region, and is absolutely needed for balancing the region.*

*So...*

1. Hundreds of millions of lives will be safer when the Arctic is better protected from potential aggression.
2. We can counterbalance Russian expansion, deter potential aggression, and enhance global security.
3. The U.S. will signal its commitment to protecting its interests and its allies, by deterring aggression and maintaining stability in the region.

*Therefore... Increasing U.S. military presence in the arctic will improve security.*

#### **VOTING ISSUE-02 (PRO): Improving Security**

*We believe the most important argument is... improving the economy.  
[or "another important argument is..."]*

*Because... it will increase access to trillions of dollars in resources that are vital to our economy as well as opening and securing trade routes for billions of dollars of commerce.*

*So...*

1. Hundreds of millions of lives will be better off when we increase economic growth by billions of dollars.
2. By increasing our military presence in the Arctic, we can improve the prosperity of hundreds of millions of people by gaining access to trillions of dollars in Arctic resources.
3. By adding more ice breakers and more vessels we can protect hundreds of billions of dollars in trade and resources from security threats.

*Therefore... Increasing U.S. military presence in the arctic will improve the economy.*

#### **VOTING ISSUE-03 (PRO): Increasing Scientific Discoveries**

*We believe the most important argument is... increasing scientific discoveries.  
[or "another important argument is..."]*

*Because... there is a tremendous need for scientific infrastructure and there are dormant diseases which need to be discovered. We can also use bioprospecting to discover new medicines and prevent pandemics.*

*So...*

1. Billions of lives will be better from critical scientific discoveries; increase medical, and technical science.
2. We increase the security and safety for scientists, which encourages them to travel to the Arctic and discover dormant threats and create cures.
3. By providing greater security and safety for scientists we can get access to new life-saving discoveries improving the lives of millions of people.

*Therefore... Increasing U.S. military presence in the arctic will increase scientific discoveries.*

#### **Concluding Statement:**

*So, for all these reasons we strongly encourage you to vote for the PRO. Thank you.*

#### **IMPORTANT:**

Don't forget to refute the rejoinders and framework before presenting the voting issues.

## **NSDA Public Forum Debate (Fall 2023)**

Topic: Arctic Militarization

### **PROS AND CONS OF ARCTIC MILITARIZATION (VOTING ISSUES): *Continued...***

#### **VOTING ISSUE-01 (CON): Threatening Security**

*We believe the most important argument is... threatening security.  
[or "another important argument is..."]*

*Because...* it will raise tensions in the region and one mistake or miscalculation could trigger a war.

*So...*

1. Hundreds of millions, perhaps billions of lives will be put in danger when three nuclear powers compete over the Arctic; one accident or miscalculation is all it takes to destroy all life on Earth.
2. Increasing our military will trigger a reaction from Russia's military, which increases the risk of war.
3. We escalate tensions with Russia, potentially destabilizing the region putting millions of lives at risk.

*Therefore...* Increasing U.S. military presence in the arctic will threaten security.

#### **VOTING ISSUE-02 (CON): Harming the Environment**

*We believe the most important argument is... destroying the environment.  
[or "another important argument is..."]*

*Because...* military operations are the world's largest cause of greenhouse gas emissions, which increases the threat of extinction from the worsening impacts of global warming.

*So...*

1. All life on Earth is put at serious risk when we increase the deadly impacts of climate change – there is no greater threat to our existence, not even nuclear war.
2. An increased military presence in the Arctic prevents vital cooperation, increasing the risk of extinction.
3. We increase greenhouse gas emissions, thereby increasing the deadly impacts of climate change putting hundreds of millions of lives at risk.

*Therefore...* Increasing U.S. military presence in the arctic WILL harm the environment.

#### **VOTING ISSUE-03 (CON): Wasting Valuable Resources**

*We believe the most important argument is... wasting valuable resources.  
[or "another important argument is..."]*

*Because...* the cost of militarizing the Arctic is way too high and should be spent on other more pressing matters such as preventing climate disasters.

*So...*

1. By spending hundreds of billions per year on projects we don't need, we end up with less money available for the things we actually do need such as a better climate, schools, and healthcare.
2. A substantial increase in military presence could waste billions of dollars and threaten the security of millions of people by weakening our defenses in other more vital areas around the world.
3. By increasing our military presence in the Arctic, we divert resources away from the greater threat of climate change, thereby failing to address imminent threats that could impact billions of lives!

*Therefore...* Increasing U.S. military presence in the arctic WILL be a waste of resources.

#### **Concluding Statement:**

*So, for all these reasons we strongly encourage you to vote for the CON. Thank you.*

#### **IMPORTANT:**

Don't forget to refute the rejoinders and framework before presenting the voting issues.