Forensics Team (Fall 2024) – Rejoinders

Topic: The US government should substantially expand its surveillance infrastructure along its southern border.

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Rejoinders for Increasing US Border Surveillance

REJOINDER INTRODUCTION (PRO) - SIMPLE

In this speech, I will defend each of my team's arguments.

The first argument I will defend is... Strengthening Security

REJOINDER INTRODUCTION (PRO) - ADVANCED

In this speech, I will defend each of my team's arguments.

But First... let's discuss the framework...

We think you should prefer our interpretation because... Ours is more clear, accurate, precise and it is fair-minded.

So... "On balance" we think our side is providing the most improvement to "Quality of Life".

Now, I will defend our first argument... Strengthening Security.

PRO-01: STRENGTHENING SECURITY

They said... we were wrong about Strengthening Security.

However, we were right, because...

First... Enhancing border protection

In the first speech, we told you... if we increase border surveillance, we will strengthen our security, because better technology helps us spot and stop threats faster, so millions of citizens will be safer.

Also... Advanced Technology Improves Threat Detection
According to... the House Committee on Homeland Security, July 9, 2024
https://homeland.house.gov/2024/07/09/chairmen-higgins-bishop-open-joint-hearing-border-security-technologies-play-a-critical-role-in-countering-threats-mass-illegal-immigration/#:~:text=For%20example%2C%20the%20deployment%20of,Border%20Patrol%20agents%20to%20cover

It states... The newest border surveillance systems use smart computer programs to review camera footage and sensor information. This technology can notice unusual behavior or objects that people might miss.

This means... Increasing US border surveillance will help protect millions of Americans because these smart systems can find dangers that border agents alone might not see, making our borders much safer against many different threats.

Finally... Disproving My Opponents' Rebuttals

1. First... Terrorism Threat is Real: Even one attack can affect as many as 20 thousand people. Our surveillance helps stop these horrific events from happening so thousands of people in the US are protected.

2. Also... Technology is Highly Effective: The border surveillance technology has made significant progress in recent years. It's better at detecting illegal crossings even in bad weather or at night.

3. Finally... Investment, Not Waste: Keeping our country safe is extremely important. The border surveillance not only catches traffickers and terrorists but also regular criminals.

Therefore... we were NOT wrong about Strengthening Security!

The next argument I will defend is... Protecting Communities

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PRO-02: PROTECTING COMMUNITIES

They said... we were wrong about: Protecting Communities.

However, we were not wrong, because...

First... Safeguarding local resources

In the first speech, we told you... If we increase border surveillance, then we will protect our communities, because it will reduce illegal entry, so millions of citizens will have more secure jobs and better public services.

Also... Improved systems reduce illegal entry
According to... Homeland Security, June 4, 2024
https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/06/04/fact-sheet-dhs-continues-strengthen-border-security-reduce-irregular-migration-and

It states... New border surveillance technology can spot people trying to cross illegally much better than before. These systems use special cameras and sensors that work day and night. They can watch large areas and quickly tell border agents where to go.

This means... Increasing US border surveillance will help millions of community members because fewer people will enter illegally, which means local jobs and resources won't be unfairly used by those who shouldn't be here.

Finally... Disproving My Opponents' Rebuttals

1. First... No Undesirable Jobs: Many Americans need the jobs, even if they're not popular and challenging. Better border control helps keep wages fair for everyone.

2. Also... Surveillance Saves Money: Surveillance saves money by reducing the need for border agents and lowering the costs of dealing with illegal entry.

3. Finally... Reducing Community Resources: Many services immigrants use cost more than the taxes they pay. Better border control helps fix this imbalance.

Therefore... we were NOT wrong about Protecting Communities!

So, for all these reasons, please vote for the PRO. Thank you.

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REJOINDER INTRODUCTION (CON) - SIMPLE

In this speech, I will defend each of my team's arguments.

The first argument I will defend is... Strengthening Security

REJOINDER INTRODUCTION (CON) - ADVANCED

In this speech, I will defend each of my team's arguments.

But First... let's discuss the framework...

We think you should prefer our interpretation because... Ours is more clear, accurate, precise and it is fair-minded.

So... "On balance" we think our side is providing the most improvement to "Quality of Life".

Now, I will defend our first argument... Wasting Resources.

CON-01: WASTING RESOURCES

They said... we were wrong about Wasting Resources.

However, we were not wrong, because...

First... Wasting Taxpayers' Money

In the first speech, we told you... If we increase border surveillance, then we will waste valuable resources because these expensive systems aren't effective, so billions of dollars will be spent without solving the real problems.

Also... Ineffective Technology Drains Resources
According to... the American Immigration Council, August 14, 2024
https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/the-cost-of-immigration-enforcement-and-border-security

It states... Many current border surveillance systems have major flaws. They often give false alarms, can't see well in bad weather, and miss many people crossing illegally. Even with these expensive systems, border agents still have to physically check most alerts.

This means... Increasing US border surveillance will harm millions of taxpayers because their money is being wasted on ineffective systems, taking funds away from higher priorities like schools, hospitals, and roads.

Finally... Disproving My Opponents' Rebuttals

1. First... Job Protection Myth: Most illegal immigrants take jobs Americans don't want. This expensive surveillance doesn't help American workers since the unwanted but essential job occupations wouldn't be fulfilled with increased surveillance.

2. Also... Ignoring Root Causes: The billions spent on surveillance could be used more effectively on other solutions that address the root causes of illegal immigration.

3. Finally... Security Theater, Not Safety: There's little evidence that the expensive surveillance stops terrorism or makes us significantly safer from criminals.

Therefore... we were NOT wrong about Wasting Valuable Resources!

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CON-02: HARMING INNOCENT PEOPLE

They said... we were wrong about Harming Innocent people.

However, we were not wrong, because...

First... Violating People's Rights

In the first speech, we told you... If we increase border surveillance, then we will harm innocent people, because it invades privacy and leads to false accusations, so millions of people near the border will be unfairly treated.

Also... Technology Makes Mistakes
According to... Just Security, June 28, 2024
https://www.justsecurity.org/97172/ai-at-the-border/

It states... Border surveillance systems often rely on flawed technology that can misidentify innocent people as threats. This happens because the system makes errors in recognizing faces or behavior, leading to false accusations.

This means... expanding border surveillance could result in thousands of innocent people being falsely accused of illegal activities, potentially leading to wrongful detentions or even arrests, causing serious harm to their lives and reputations.

Finally... Disproving My Opponents' Rebuttals

1. First... Not Enough Privacy Protection: The current laws don't stop all the private information these systems collect about people.

2. Also... Technology Still Makes Errors: Even a few mistakes can hurt many people since thousands are crossing the border.

3. Finally... Dangerous Crossings Continue: More watching often pushes people trying to cross to take more dangerous paths, not stop them. This leads to more people getting hurt or even dying.

Therefore... we were NOT wrong about Harming Innocent People!

So, for all these reasons, please vote for the CON. Thank you.