

**The Rt. Hon. Sir Winston Spencer Churchill
Society**

In Conjunction With

The Alberta Debate and Speech Association

and

The University of Alberta Debate Society

~ Presents ~



**2014-2015 Edmonton Journal
Churchill Debate and Speech Competitions
Presented by the Nearctic Group**

Preparatory Package

General Comments for Debate and Speech

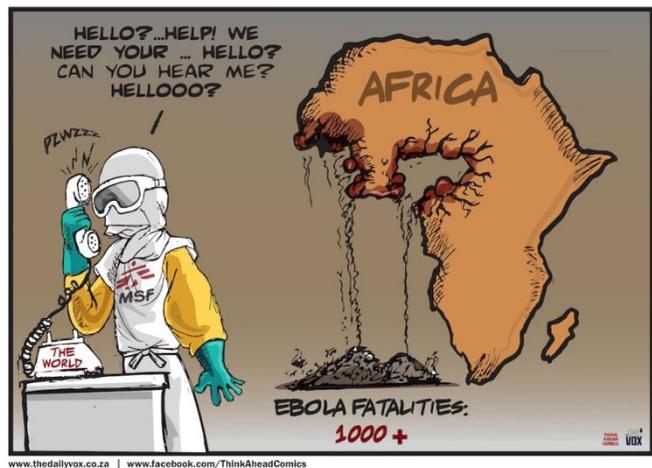
This topic stems from contentious social, economic and political debates surrounding the current Ebola crisis, and relating them to the historical perspective that surrounded Churchill. You are encouraged to take into account Churchill's actions and viewpoint, including his foreign policy stance, accountability, and national pride. It is important to investigate the consequences (economic, political, social, moral) of both his views as well as the modern implications and examples. However, you are strongly encouraged not to base your defence solely on these examples, but to also consider the theoretical consequences of policies that nations may enact with respect to the global Ebola crisis. This preparatory package will provide basic information on the Ebola crisis, and Churchill's position regarding global responses, in addition to reasons for and against the motion. We would strongly encourage you to explore the information here, and find more in your own research.

The debates will include all grades 10, 11 and 12 in one category in Senior High National Open Style with speaking times of 8-8-8-8-4-4. Public speeches will include grades 10, 11 and 12 in one original oratory category and should not exceed five minutes. Should you have any questions, please contact Kerry Nield at nield@ualberta.ca.

Ebola

The Ebola virus disease (EVD) is a severe illness that occurs in humans. The average Ebola fatality rate is approximately 50%, but varies from 25% to 90% in different regions. The current outbreak of Ebola in West Africa has impacted not only rural but major urban areas, resulting in over 9,000 cases, and 4,500 deaths.

In order to effectively treat the disease, steps need to be taken to reducing the risk of human-to-human transmission, wildlife-to-human transmission, as well as strong outbreak containment measures. While there are currently no licensed vaccines available, two are in development. To improve survival rates, treatment involving oral or intravenous fluid rehydration and treatment of other symptoms is necessary.



The World Health Organization (WHO) models of the Ebola epidemic indicated that the United Kingdom and the United States are among the countries most likely to have an introduced case of Ebola. However currently these nations are currently providing minimal support to assist West African countries in combating the disease, and are instead adopting isolationist policies to screen individuals entering the country.

Churchill's Position

During the World War II, Churchill worked hard to persuade the Americans to take arms against the threat posed by Nazi Germany. The United States had at the time an isolationist policy that caused them to avoid engaging in the international conflict. Churchill travelled to America several times to form alliances, which ultimately was an important key to the victory in the war. Churchill was renowned for his beliefs regarding appeasement, and the need to firmly confront enemies. His approach was to actively deal with the issue at hand. Churchill believed in the British Empire as a world leader, and its role as a nation that could and should influence the future of the world.

Churchill was also very prideful of the British Empire, and went to great lengths to ensure that the Empire remained intact during his later years as a member of parliament. An example of Churchill's fervour over the importance of the intact power of the British Empire is his unpopular stance on the independence of India. He is quoted as saying that the notion of Indian Independence "was a frightful prospect." Churchill believed that it was important to go to any length to keep the British Empire as a prestigious, powerful and vast domain. Churchill also knew the importance of keeping the moral of British citizens high during under the difficult wartime situation. He was well known for his speeches that challenged citizens to remain optimistic in those arduous times.

Benefits of a global response to Ebola

The benefits of a global response reduce the risk of the Ebola crisis developing into an even larger pandemic. Furthermore the coordinated strategic response could ensure that the fatality from this disease is minimized. This is an important moral consideration, as this is in part the responsibility of humanity to assist in saving other human lives.

Furthermore prolonged disease could have a strong negative effects on our global economy, resulting from reduced trade and travel due to the fear of infection. It is also important to consider how a large pandemic would impact international relations. An interventionism, or the proactive involvement in foreign affairs, would take action in order to avoid further hazard.

Negatives of a global response to Ebola

A global response to the Ebola crisis also potentially could cause more harm than benefit. A response could needlessly place citizens at risk, placing individuals in areas where they are likely to contract the disease and also spread it back to their own country. Furthermore the expense of coordinating aid is very large, and in fact may be unnecessary if the risk of disease is minimal. Currently, the number of deaths from HIV/AIDS excessively outnumbers the number of deaths from Ebola. A global response to Ebola may not even be targeting the root of the issue. A global response could also induce panic in citizens, causing mass hysteria and ultimately leading to negative impacts on safety and the economy.

It is very important to consider isolationist policies, or policies chosen by a nation that avoid the affairs of other nations in order to best serve themselves. It is very possible that steps taken within your nation may be just as effective, as well as less costly and risky, to protecting citizens from the threat. It is important to consider the different options for aid available to a nation to offer, as well as the expense. The cost of an Ebola vaccine or cure is certainly very large. It is also important to consider how well prepared a nation is to administer itself in the scenario of a pandemic internally. Since funds are not limitless, a nation must help its own citizens before helping others.

Things to Think About

Consider hypothetical situations about the progression of the disease, including changes in fatality. How does this impact the how nations should react?

How have Churchill's policies been successful and unsuccessful in confronting global issues? Consider the historical evidence.

What kind of effects does an isolationist or interventionist policy have in terms of politics, social, moral, and general reception from the population?

What are the different ways that nations can provide support in a health crisis?