

# Vassar High School Invitational

## November 7-8, 2020

### Motions by Round

TH—This House

THW—This House would

THBT—This House believes that

THP—This House prefers

THR—This House regrets

#### ROUND 1:

THBT costs of space exploration outweigh the benefits.

THBT the costs of autonomous technologies outweigh the benefits.

THR the rise of social media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram).

#### ROUND 2:

An out-of-court settlement is a formal arrangement to resolve a lawsuit made between the parties involved without a court's involvement.

THW ban out-of-court settlements for workplace discrimination and harassment.

THBT in countries where National Service is mandatory for men, feminists should push for the inclusion of women to be conscripted as well.

THR the use of historical analogy in contemporary political rhetoric.

#### ROUND 3:

TH, as the Chinese Communist Party, would provide universal suffrage to Hong Kong.

THW dissolve the European Union.

The countries of the European Union, through treaty agreements, form an economic and political union with a single, internal market, free movement of workers, and a shared currency. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) consists of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

THBT the ASEAN countries should adopt the model of the European Union.

#### ROUND 4:

Packing the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) refers to Congress increasing the number of Justices from 9 to a greater number.

Assuming Democratic control of the Presidency and both Houses of Congress, TH, as the Democratic Party, would pack the Supreme Court.

“Cloture” – a vote to end discussion and move to a vote – currently requires 60 votes in the Senate, and is used by minority parties to filibuster (i.e. block legislation) as they only need 41 votes to block a vote

on legislation or an appointment. The filibuster has been removed for Judicial and Executive Branch appointments. As a Senate rule, the number of votes needed for cloture can be changed by a simple majority vote.

TH, as a Democratically controlled Senate, would set cloture at a simple majority and end the filibuster.

TH, as the Democratic Party, would embrace religious messages to advance their campaigns and policies. (e.g. Pete Buttigieg has frequently discussed his Christian faith and criticized Trump's immigration policy as being against God's will.)

#### ROUND 5:

THBT comedic political commentators (e.g. John Oliver, Stephen Colbert, Samantha Bee, etc.) do more harm than good.

The BBC style of impartiality refers to a standard of news reporting that considers a broad perspective and ensures that the existence of a range of views is appropriately reflected in all of its output.

THBT the government should require all media to observe BBC-style impartiality.

THR the rise of K-pop in the United States.

#### NOVICE QUARTERS:

THBT the World Health Organization (WHO) should adopt a convention that bans the sale of drugs with high resistance tendencies (e.g. antibiotics) to countries that do not comply with WHO guidelines regarding their medical and agricultural use.

THP international over domestic philanthropy.

THBT the US should apologize for its past actions interfering with foreign governments.

#### NOVICE SEMIS:

A highly-valued startup has invented Neuralink technology, which allows people's consciousnesses to be irreversibly uploaded into a powerful supercomputer and maintained indefinitely.

THP a world without the Neuralink.

A drug that makes human beings immortal has been invented. THW permanently destroy the formula and ban its use.

THP a world in which, starting today, all humans have identical intellectual abilities (equivalent to the current global average).

#### NOVICE FINALS:

THW reduce and/or reverse economic growth in order to solve climate change.

THBT each country has a duty to limit population growth.

Universal basic income (UBI) is a government program in which every adult citizen receives a set amount of money on a regular basis. UBI can include a "negative income tax" which conditions the size of that sum on an individual's annual income, so it is effectively means-tested.

THW replace need-based welfare programs (such as housing assistance, food and nutrition assistance) with a UBI program.

#### VARSIY OCTOS:

THBT university administrations should refrain from commenting in an official capacity on political issues (e.g. protests, elections, politically salient events, etc.).

THR the popularity of postsecondary education.

In order to cope with rising numbers of applications and avoid charges of discrimination, some college admissions offices have been using “admissions algorithms” – statistically trained computer programs, a form of artificial intelligence – to review applications and decide who gets admitted.

THR the increasing use of admissions algorithms.

#### VARSIY QUARTERS:

Harvard Crimson published a news article on November 21, 1967, when Vassar was still a women’s college and Yale was an all-male school, which said that “The Trustees of Vassar College voted yesterday to reject the proposed merger of Vassar with Yale because of, as one Trustee said, ‘our desire to be mistress in our own house.’”

TH, as Vassar College in 1967, would accept being merged with Yale.

THR high school debate.

THP romantic relationships with minimum age gaps between the partners.

#### VARSIY SEMIS:

THBT the Mexican government should offer immunity for economic crimes to drug cartels in exchange for not targeting the police, military, or civilians.

THP a criminal justice system that pursues criminal and civil charges against individuals within companies, rather than fines against the entire company.

THBT developing countries should acquire, on the open market, large stakes in major publicly-traded global corporations (eg. Google, JP Morgan, Shell, and Pfizer).

#### VARSIY FINALS:

THR the popularity of statistical prediction of election outcomes.

Executive Orders (EOs) are directives issued by the President using authority under the Constitution or granted by Congress stating how laws should be enforced or otherwise how Executive Branch entities should behave. EOs remain in effect until they are canceled or replaced by a subsequent EO, overturned by the Courts, or canceled or replaced by legislation.

THW ban the EO.

Technocracy is the control of government, society, and industry by an elite of technical experts.

THP technocracy over majority rule in liberal democracies.