# Flow Chart[1] of the Final Round: Connecticut Debate Association, Daniel Hand High School, February 4, 2017

Resolved: Internet sites should be required to remove fake news.

The Final Round was between the Hamden team of Akashi Agarwal and Kayla Johnson on the Affirmative and the Warde team of Max Lee and Cameron Luther on the Negative. The debate was won by the Negative.

Format Key

It's hard to reproduce notes taken on an 11" by 14" artist pad on printed paper. The three pages below are an attempt to do so. The first page covers the constructive speeches, the second page covers the cross-ex, and the third page covers the rebuttal. The pages are intended to be arranged as follows, which is how my actual flow chart is arranged:

Page 1 Constructives	Page 3 Rebuttals
Page 2 Constructives cont'd and Cross-ex	
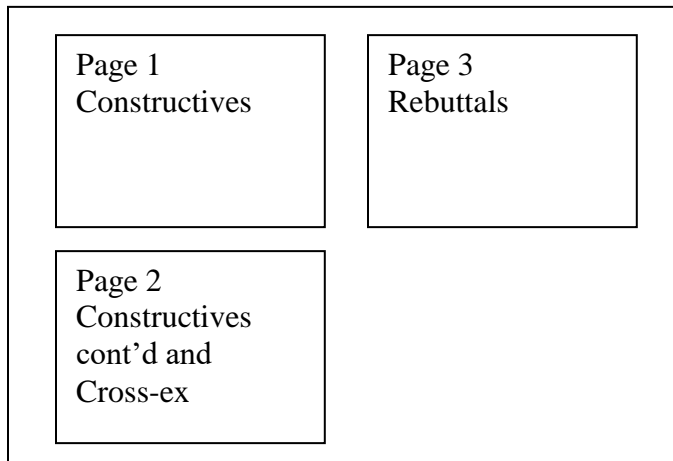
Note that the first page containing the constructive speeches always has arguments related to the Affirmative contentions at the top, and those relating to the Negative contentions at the bottom. This is not how the speeches may have been presented, in that often a speaker will deal with Negative arguments prior to the Affirmative. The "transcript" version of my notes lists the arguments in each speech as presented.

The chart uses "A1," "N2," etc. to refer to the Affirmative first contention, the Negative second contention and so forth. It also uses the following abbreviations:

"IS"   Internet sites
"FN"   Fake news
"SM"   Social media

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First Affirmative Constructive	First Negative Constructive	Second Affirmative Constructive	Second Negative Constructive

1) Introduction
2) Statement of the Resolution
3) Definitions
  a) "Internet Sites(IS)": social media (SM) platforms
  b) "Fake News(FN)": false information published with the intent to deceive
4) Plan
  a) Sites can ask to be verified and get a blue check
  b) Public can flag a site as false and be sent to a committee for review
  c) A site that gets too many flags can get permanently flagged as false or shut down
5) A1[2]: Fake news leads to domestic and international tension
  a) FN is often considered real news
  b) E.g., false report about Israel taken as fact by Pakistan who threatened nuclear war
  c) E.g., Hilary Clinton child-abuse report led to pizza restaurant shooting
  d) E.g. Donald Trump can say anything and be believed
6) A2: The resolution provides a disincentive to FN
  a) FN is created to make money, e.g., click bait
  b) Take it off Facebook, no ads, no money
  c) The more FN people read the less likely to believe the truth
  d) E.g., the last election
  e) Discourage reading
7) A3: FN saturates the media on major issues
  a) FN outperformed real news on Facebook the last week of the election
  b) Zuckerberg says it had no influence on the outcome, but how do we know?
  c) Majority now check SM as the primary news source
	1) Intro
	2) Resolution
	3) We believe the plan can be accomplished by the status quo
		1) Intro
		2) There is a misunderstanding.
		  a) Just because punishments weren't specified doesn't mean there won't be any
		  b) We don't need to be specific, but there will be a gov't requirement
		3) A1: Another Pakistan/Israel situation could be a disaster
		  a) E.g., a claim Donald Trump will blow something up will be believed
		4) A2: no money, no FN
		  a) Committees have no political agenda to push
		5) A3: The last election is an example of how FN pushes out real news
			1) Intro
			2) I'll cover Aff then Neg
			3) We concede A1 and A3: FN is bad and we agree
			4) A2: plan provides no real disincentive
			  a) There is no accountability
			  b) The "gov't requirement" was introduced late and that's unfair
			    i) No requirement means no committees
			  c) Committees are inherently biased to preferred news
			    i) Algorithms are unbiased
			  d) According to NPR, Facebook and Google have algorithms that are 99.9% accurate
			  e) School analogy in CX is false: gov't doesn't fund SM
			    i) SM providers are rich so Aff has no incentive

	1) N1: Plan is an undue burden on internet sites
	  a) Facebook, Twitter, etc., are not the source of FN but get the burden
	  b) This isn't fair. It's like penalizing newsstands for newspapers
	  c) Algorithms and committees are expensive
	  d) Facebook has been working on the problem for a while
	  e) The right way is to burden the FN producers, not the hosts
	2) N2: Status quo will achieve the goal
	  a) Facebook is already using algorithms
		1) N1: Why burden Facebook?
		  a) May not be able to reach producer, as Neg admitted in CX
		  b) Under CX Neg agreed need SM for FN to go viral
		  c) We need SM to act, and they are responsible
		2) N2: SM are not taking the steps in the Aff plan
		  a) Algorithms don't do critical thinking
		    i) E.g., religion is not backed by scientific fact
		  b) Committees wouldn't be controlled by
			1) N1: US is biggest source of FN
			  a) Plan is a burden on SM providers
			2) N2: the market's invisible hand, the profit motive, will get SM providers to act
			  a) It's happening now. We don't need the resolution
			3) N3: editorial boards are not efficient
			  a) It would be better to pass laws sanctioning FN companies
			    i) This isn't in Aff plan
			  b) In CX we asked Aff who decides
			    i) No clear definition

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[2] "A1" indicates the Affirmative first contention, "N2" the Negative second contention and so forth.

| | rather than editorial committees
  i) Bad press causes them to lose money
  ii) They will solve the problem eventually
  b) Plan has no requirement
    i) Committees and bans happen now
    ii) Aff has no penalty, no regulation, no oversight
    iii) Plan doesn't implement resolution
3) Plan will be ineffective
  a) It's an undue burden on SM providers
  b) Better to go after the content creators
  c) We are not proposing a counterplan, only that the plan is not adequate
  d) "required" is the crux of the debate. Aff has no gov't involvement. | corporations
c) People have the power to flag FN | ii) Donald Trump says the New York Times is FN: would Aff shut down the NYT?
c) The plan violates the social contract and give gov't too much control |

Cross-ex of First Affirmative	Cross-ex of First Negative	Cross-ex of Second Affirmative	Cross-ex of Second Negative
1) What is your plan? SM companies have a committee to review claims. Sites can apply to be reviewed and get labeled. Users can flag FN for review. 2) Did you define "required"? No need. We can assume laws passed. SM sites and Mark Zuckerberg have said they can do this. 3) Doesn't "required" mean "hold accountable"? We can't specify the exact fine or prison sentence. 4) How can you ensure FN removed if no gov't enforcement? It's in SM's best interest as FN drives away customers 5) SM companies will set up committees? Yes 6) How are they funded? SM platforms already want to do it.	1) Does all FN come from domestic sources? No, Macedonia is one example. 2) How can you punish them? No counterplan, but plan doesn't solve this problem either. 3) Can FN go viral without SM? Under N2 they are already solving the problem. 4) SM isn't the only source of FN? Yes, but no need to put additional burdens on SM. 5) Are algorithms better than algorithms and an editorial committee? Algorithms are better. 6) Can't algorithms make errors, be biased? People too. Algorithms better. 7) Why are committees high cost? Committees have a lot of work, pay, research, checking. Better to let SM choose the method.	1) Who determines what is FN? We have verified sites, public flagging and a review committee 2) So they could be biased and suppress news? If everything goes wrong, but it's not likely 3) Are the committees controlled by the company? Yes 4) Appointed by the company? Not sure how Facebook does it 5) Aren't companies acting out of self-interest? They will be required to act by the gov't. 6) What is "required"? That they remove FN 7) What forces them to do this? We don't have to specify a punishment. Why do we obey any law? 8) Will the committee be punished if it doesn't work? No. We don't get rid of a bad school, we fix it. 9) Doesn't FN threaten Facebook profit? It harms Facebook's profit by making the experience unpleasant.	1) Is Google's machine learning better than Facebook's? I don't work at Google 2) Are they similar? I'm not at Google 3) To algorithms make mistakes? NPR quotes a study that says 99.9% accurate on FN 4) If FN is hard to define how can an algorithm decide? Didn't we agree on a definition 5) How can you expect the Aff to write a specific plan? If we can't evaluate Google vs Facebook, we can't be sure gov't action will be effective 6) Who designs the algorithm? Everyone could use Google's algorithm 7) The algorithm decides FN versus not fake? Yes 8) How was it tested? I don't know 9) The algorithm tests all content? All 10) So the art club at Hamden High is checked? If it's fake, yes.

First Negative Rebuttal	First Affirmative Rebuttal	Second Negative Rebuttal	Second Affirmative Rebuttal

1) Intro
2) Plan
  a) No one is enforcing it; no answer in CX; they've changed their case
  b) We still win on inherency
    i) In CX Aff agreed FN threatened Facebook profits by upsetting users
    ii) Loss of profit most effective form of regulation
  c) Facebook rejected editorial boards: swamped and too costly
3) N1: SM would be burdened
  a) Gov't supervision costly
  b) SM can solve problem on their own
  c) Algorithms the best way to go
4) A1: problem can be solved by status quo
5) Plan means a gov't agency has to check for accuracy
6) Neg doesn't need gov't because profit incentives SM to fix problem themselves
	1) Intro
	2) Plan
	  a) Knew resolution said "required", knew it had to be Federal gov't
	  b) We are not required to define penalties
	  c) We are not the legislature, just as Neg isn't Google
	3) Fake news is bad
	  a) Clearly defined: not factual, intent to deceive
	4) Neg says an algorithm can remove FN
	  a) Facebook process personal information
	  b) Google processes different information
	    i) Google self-driving car crashed due to algorithm
	  c) Can't compare Facebook and Google without more information
	    i) E.g., Hamden HS
	  d) Algorithms must cover all situations
	5) Neg want us to regulate international sources
	  a) Aff only has to verify the article and the source
	6) Boards corrupt? We believe they will be moral
		1) Intro
		2) Which side has better moral imperative?
		3) Which side has better implications?
		4) Editorial boards
		  a) Not really "required"
		  b) No specifics on how they would be judged effective
		  c) Laws, fines, review process? Aff has no real requirement
		5) Both sides agree FN is not good
		  a) A2/Plan are the crux of the debate
		  b) Neg has shown plan not effective
		6) N1: plan is undue burden
		  a) Why prevent new SM providers?
		  b) How do we know plan will apply to them?
		  c) SM are not regulators
		7) Gov't power over morals
		  a) Violates the social contract
		  b) Can't let gov't decide what is true and what is false
			1) Intro
			2) Sad to go back and forth on definitions
			  a) We are not experts in crime and punishment
			  b) There will be a punishment, but we can't set a $ amount
			3) Donald Trump and the NYT
			  a) We aren't letting the gov't regulate truth
			  b) Committee reviews sites and news flagged by public
			4) Economic feasibility not explained
			  a) Plan services purpose of removing FN from SM
			  b) Don't understand Neg argument that this is not feasible
			5) A1: not touched by Neg
			6) A2: misunderstood by Neg
			  a) Plan provides disincentive to post FN by removing profit
			  b) No profit, why do it? For fun?
			7) A3: also not touched by Neg
			8) N1: Gov't should be involved vs gov't should punish originators of FN
			9) N2: Contradicts punishment argument
			  a) Resolution compels corporations to solve problem