

# The Final Round<sup>1</sup>

Everett Rutan

Xavier High School

[ejrutan3@ctdebate.org](mailto:ejrutan3@ctdebate.org)

or

[ejrutan3@acm.org](mailto:ejrutan3@acm.org)

## Yale Osterweis Tournament

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**This House would be vegetarian.**

### A Note about the Notes

These are my notes from the final round of the Osterweis Tournament. They are limited by how quickly I could write and how well I heard what was said. I apologize for any errors, but I hope debaters will appreciate this insight: what a judge hears may not be what they said or wish they had said.

There are two versions of the notes. The one below is chronological, reproducing each speech in the order in which the arguments were made. It shows how the debate was actually presented. The second is formatted to look more like my written flow chart, with each contention “flowed” across the page as the teams argued back and forth. It’s close to the way I actually take notes during the debate.

### The Final Round

The final round of the 2013 Osterweis Tournament was between the Pomperaug team of Marlee Breakstone and Diya Nag as Government and Choate team of Nat Warner and Sarthak Agrawal in Opposition. The debate was won by the Opposition from Choate.

#### 1) Prime Minister Constructive

- a) Statement of the motion.
- b) G1<sup>2</sup>: Vegetarianism brings health benefits
  - i) Less fat than in meat
  - ii) Meat is often unidentified—pink slime, mystery meat, hot dogs, sausages
    - (1) Sinclair Lewis described this 100 years ago in *The Jungle*
  - iii) Vegetables have more nutrients and a wider variety
  - iv) Help to avoid the Freshman 15
    - (1) Stay away from KFC and McDonald’s
- c) G2: There will be a positive environmental impact
  - i) Energy used in transport and refrigeration
  - ii) Vegetables don’t require refrigeration and can be produced locally
  - iii) No middleman, so food production is more efficient
    - (1) E.g., cows eat grass to produce meat

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<sup>2</sup> “G1” indicates the Government first contention, “O2” the Opposition second contention and so forth.

- d) G3: Vegetarianism is ethically responsible
    - i) Spares the lives of animals
    - ii) Lessens chance of extinction of rare animals
      - (1) E.g., rattlesnakes, ostriches
    - iii) Chickens and cows would be protected.
- 2) Leader of the Opposition Constructive**
- a) We would like to thank Yale for having us.
  - b) O1: Pragmatic
    - i) Vegetarians don't get to enjoy meat
      - (1) I'm not a rabbit
    - ii) There is a social stigma vegetarians
      - (1) they are seen as self-righteous
    - iii) Leads to awkward situations
      - (1) E.g., you visit your girlfriend and have to ask for a special meal
      - (2) POI<sup>3</sup>: Wouldn't your girlfriend know you are a vegetarian?**
      - (3) We can leave my personal relations aside
      - (4) Suppose it's a business dinner and you have to ask for a special meal
    - iv) Hard to pursue athletics
      - (1) Need meat for protein
  - c) O2: Ethics
    - i) Humans evolved to eat meat, it's an integral part of the human experience
    - ii) We have an obligation to ourselves
      - (1) Treat our bodies well to interact with the world
      - (2) Meat doesn't have to be from KFC
  - d) G1: KFC has vegetarian options
    - i) Gov doesn't recognize moderation
    - ii) They assume all meat eaters are obese, eat lots of fat
    - iii) Meat can be eaten responsibly
      - (1) eat the chicken patty but not the special sauce
  - e) G2: Can eat local produce
  - f) G3: Why do animals have rights?
    - i) They aren't conscious, so they have no rights
    - ii) Any rights they did have wouldn't outweigh human rights
    - iii) We don't need to eat endangered animals
- 3) Member of Government Constructive**
- a) "I love meat. It's so tasty!" (Said loudly, with a sarcastic tone.)
  - b) O1: There are many who are vegetarians voluntarily
    - i) There is no reason to force them to eat meat
    - ii) It is ridiculous to say that vegetarians don't enjoy life
      - (1) They enjoy it as much as others
    - iii) Social stigma is less of a concern than the ethics issue
    - iv) POI: Shouldn't we weigh the practical considerations?**
      - (1) They are less important
    - v) There are many vegetarian options for protein: protein shakes, nuts, etc.
      - (1) This isn't a serious practical limitation

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<sup>3</sup> "POI" indicates a point of information accepted and asked

- c) O2: Opp says humans evolved to eat meat?
  - i) Why do we talk about “breaking bread”? “drinking wine”?
  - ii) Many social situations do not involve eating meat
  - iii) Vegetables are better than meat, and there are sources for all missing nutrients
- d) G1: Meat in moderation is still less healthy than vegetarianism
  - i) Vegetarianism is most healthful, most moral
- e) G3: Animals do have moral rights
  - i) POI: Why do animals have rights?**
    - (1) They are conscious of themselves, other species, humans
    - ii) It’s wrong to eat another organism.
- 4) Member of the Opposition Constructive**
  - a) O1: Little reasons add up
    - i) Vegetarianism harms day-to-day life and appreciation
    - ii) We aren’t talking about vegetarians, but the average college student
    - iii) College is a rite of passage, where you become an adult
      - (1) Awkwardness and stigma deserve consideration
  - b) O2: Our lives are shaped by biology
    - i) We have an obligation to satisfy our bodies
    - ii) Can’t easily get benefits of meat from other sources
    - iii) Can’t afford special foods to meet protein requirements on a college budget
  - c) G1: The argument isn’t intrinsic to eating meat
    - i) You can avoid the harms by selecting the meat you eat carefully
    - ii) POI—declined
  - d) G2: Transport meat?
    - i) How much difference does one vegetarian make? On hamburger not shipped?
- 5) Leader of Opposition Rebuttal**
  - a) Thanks for a great tournament
  - b) Gov world
    - i) Meat eaters could fall into bad straits
    - ii) But Gov never shows harms are intrinsic
    - iii) College students could make good decisions
    - iv) Fat in moderation is good for you
    - v) Environmental impact is unclear
    - vi) Never show eating meat is immoral or that animals have consciousness
  - c) Opp world
    - i) We have fun
      - (1) We enjoy meat, no awkward vegetarian moments, no search for vegetarian options
    - ii) We can afford to properly
- 6) Prime Minister Rebuttal**
  - a) Opp says we are biologically evolved
    - i) Does that mean all we do is satisfy the body?
    - ii) What about sexual urges?
  - b) Opp says we will live life to the fullest?
    - i) To what purpose? To be corpses? Or for memories?
  - c) Budget?

- i) Organic meat is significantly expensive
- ii) How would a college student cook it?
- d) Animal consciousness
  - i) You can call a dog by name
  - ii) Gorillas have learned sign language
  - iii) There are various levels of consciousness
- e) Moderation?
  - i) Two-thirds of the population is obese, no self-control
  - i) There are not obese vegetarians
- b) Vegetarians are healthier, ethically better