**Case Construction Handout –Debate**

**Speech and Debate I**

Statement of Side

**I [affirm / negate] the resolution, Resolved: [insert exact resolution wording here]**

Pre-Contention Observation(s) (Optional)

*If you have any definitions, points of clarification, or important weighing mechanisms to include in your case, include them here before reading any of your contentions by stating the following*:

**Before we begin today’s debate, I offer the following observation(s):**

* **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must be defined as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We must use this definition because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
* **I would like to clarify that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is important because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**
* **Today’s debate should be weighed based on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This is the most important way to weigh the debate, because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Contentions

**I have [2 / 3] arguments. My first point of contention is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

*In each contention you must include the following:*

* *Claim: Statement of a claim*
* *Warrant: Reason(s) that claim is true (supported by at least 1 piece of evidence)*
* *Impact: Reason(s) why that claim is important to the scope of the resolution (aka, reasons the judge should weigh that argument over your opponent’s arguments)*

*For the beginning of a new contention, remember to state* **“My [number here] point of contention is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”**

Concluding Remark

*If you have a final statement of synthesis or significance, include it here. Always end your case with the following statement*:

**For these reasons I strongly urge a(n) [affirmative / negative] ballot.**