

if you have any questions on this kritik, please feel free to email me at riyana.srihari@gmail.com!

AFF KRITIK

Hi judges! I'm Riyana and this is Abi, and we're seniors. Our experience in debate has been riddled with pervasive misogyny and racism, and at the last major tournament of our career, we wanted to propose a kritik of patriarchy within debate.

CW: sexual assault and suicide

framework (basis for what we're critiquing)

1. **THIS TOURNAMENT IS KEY:** debate is where we learn to be engaged changemakers, but we're constantly spoken over, demeaned with gendered slurs, sexualized, and forced to defend violence towards gender minorities. We reject the affirmation's discussion of ineffective policy action, and propose a counter advocacy resistance strategy against the misogyny and violence that pushes gender minorities out of parli debate.
2. **ONE IS NOT BORN A WOMAN:** gender is not a biological reality but a social identity. The oppression non-men face is produced by historical conditions and our identity as Others.
3. **CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING COMES FIRST:** we're constantly fed media and knowledge produced by patriarchal institutions, which naturalizes gendered violence.
 - a. We don't know our real desires under patriarchy: after New Zealand police officers passed a 2003 law that created loopholes to abuse sex workers, they wrote a study claiming that their policy was liberatory. This "liberation" rhetoric is constantly amplified by patriarchal media and shields the industry from criticism, even though 80% of sex workers say they wish to leave the industry but are unable to. ([source1](#), [source2](#), [source3](#), [source4](#)). Without analysis of feminist theory, we can't know the true impacts of policy.
 - a. Policy debate girlboss feminism means only the worst women win—if you aren't Elizabeth Warren or Hillary Clinton you aren't a good female debater and we disrupt that norm
 - i. CFPB's design was anti-neoliberal but it now serves to protect Equifax from accountability, because Warren's background in policy debate did not prepare her to control the neoliberal drive of the state ([source](#)).

Interpretation: the role of the ballot is to vote for the team that best increases gender minorities' access to the debate space.

links - we write these in prep

impacts

1. **VIOLENCE:** Patriarchy is the internal link to violence.
 - a. Parliamentary debate protects and ignores rapists:
 - i. In 2020 the UOP forensics director was exposed as a rapist and groomer. Despite this, the first in-person NPDA national tournament after COVID was hosted at UOP ([source](#)).
 - ii. In response to an article detailing violent sexual abuse within the high school parli debate space, former-NPDL treasurer Everett Rutan said "I don't think this has anything to do with us" in an NPDL Board meeting ([source](#)).
 - b. The patriarchal state is unwilling and unable to protect gendered minorities. A 2005 Supreme Court case ruled that police have no obligation to prevent domestic violence, even in instances of proven, repetitive abuse ([source](#)).
 - c. The liberal emphasis on choice turns current feminist resistance into shallow choice feminism, which defines any action taken by a woman as uniquely feminist and ignores racial, class, and ability-related nuances. Choice feminism tricks young girls into thinking that OnlyFans accounts or life-threatening plastic surgery is liberatory.

alternative

Vote negative to endorse our community-based feminist struggle in the debate space.

Four reasons why our alt is key:

1. **SURVIVAL:** We have to read this K to resist anti-kritik and misogynistic ideology in the debate space, and to normalize **critical** discussion of structural patriarchy on the biggest debate stage we can access.
 - a. This K is not the end but the means: the Chicago Women's Liberation Union's liberation schools started by teaching gender minorities political theory courses and THEN began mobilizing them to protest at local policy meetings.
 - b. In the same way that 2004 Louisville performance kritiks made parli receptive to non-traditional debate styles, our advocacy makes

feminist theory more accessible, spotlights misogyny and forces you to listen, while fostering community by validating gender minorities' experiences. This approach is a prerequisite to real-world strategies like protesting, supporting unions and strikes, or investing in safehouses for domestic violence victims like the Kurdistan PKK does.

- i. This is empirically successful: in our last round, we won that round in front of two judges who do not regularly judge Ks, and an East Coast debater reached out to us and told us "that was awesome". Our opponents saying they agree with us is evidence that our feminist epistemology is rupturing the debate space; this is empirical proof that our method is effective and therefore must be rewarded with the ballot.
- 2. **INCELS**, which we define as people who harbor deep hostility and violent anger towards women
 - a. Our feminist theory confronts the misogynistic ideology that creates incels; every time debaters watch us win with this K they're forced to confront the truth of our arguments, building resistance to misogyny.
 - i. Our methodology is the internal link to decreasing fascist violence; neo-nazi magazine Stormfront specifically recruits incels, and conservative vitriol is made digestible through misogynistic language.
- 3. **SOLIDARITY KEY**: Riyana and I stand with the Rev Feminist Interim Committee, Palestinian Tal'at, Nigeria SWA, and the Red Canary Song organization standing against the Atlanta Massage Parlor shooting.
 - a. **IL to change**: we identify real world solutions to oppressive structures and force you to listen.

end of the k 😊😊

NEG KRITIK

Hi judges! I'm Abi and this is Riyana, and we're seniors. Our experience in debate has been riddled with pervasive misogyny and racism, and at the last major tournament of our career, we wanted to propose a kritik of patriarchy within debate.

CW: sexual assault and suicide

framework (basis for what we're critiquing)

2. **THIS TOURNAMENT IS KEY:** debate is where we learn to be engaged changemakers, but we're constantly spoken over, demeaned with gendered slurs, sexualized, and forced to defend violence towards gender minorities. We reject the affirmation's discussion of ineffective policy action, and propose a counter advocacy resistance strategy against the misogyny and violence that pushes gender minorities out of parli debate.
3. **ONE IS NOT BORN A WOMAN:** gender is not a biological reality but a social identity. The oppression non-men face is produced by historical conditions and our identity as Others.
4. **CRITICAL UNDERSTANDING COMES FIRST:** we're constantly fed media and knowledge produced by patriarchal institutions, which naturalizes gendered violence.
 - a. We don't know our real desires under patriarchy: after New Zealand police officers passed a 2003 law that created loopholes to abuse sex workers, they wrote a study claiming that their policy was liberatory. This "liberation" rhetoric is constantly amplified by patriarchal media and shields the industry from criticism, even though 80% of sex workers say they wish to leave the industry but are unable to. ([source1](#), [source2](#), [source3](#), [source4](#)). Without analysis of feminist theory, we can't know the true impacts of policy.

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links [[LINK DUMP](#) - tech] - we write these in prep

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 - i. This approach is a prerequisite to real-world strategies like protesting, supporting unions and strikes, or investing in safehouses for domestic violence victims like the Kurdistan PKK does.
 - b. 2004 Louisville performance kritiks made parli receptive to non-traditional debate styles; similarly, our advocacy makes feminist theory accessible, spotlights misogyny and forces you to listen, while fostering community by validating gender minorities' experiences.
 - i. This is empirically successful: in our last round, we won that round in front of two judges who do not regularly judge Ks, and

an East Coast debater reached out to us and told us "that was awesome". The aff saying they agree with us is evidence that our feminist epistemology is rupturing the debate space; this is empirical proof that our method is effective and therefore must be rewarded with the ballot.

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4. FOOTNOTING: the perm co-opts and steals our original argumentation, making it an instance of casual misogyny in debate. If you vote for the aff, you lose the spotlighting impact of our alt and footnote gender minorities' experiences of violent misogyny.

end of the k 😊😊

some extra thoughts on the k!

on solidarity alt point -- The impact is spillover: the 2018 West Virginia teacher strikes shut down schools across the state, and inspired teachers in Oklahoma/Colorado/Arizona to take action too.

on framework critical understanding point - Social media beauty filters cause body dysmorphia; over half of plastic surgeons state that patient's motivation is to look better in selfies, and the desire to be beautiful under patriarchal standards is literally fatal—there are 100 plastic surgery deaths per year, and countless trans women died in black market BBL surgeries over the past 5 years ([source1](#)). Policy debate operates in a world defined by patriarchal beauty filters, this K promotes a more “natural” one.

add-ons to the fw

Biology is constantly used as an ideological justification for gendered oppression, as shown through feverish and violent attempts to regulate abortion or define trans women as non-women.

Sex workers are seen as commodities for consumption and this function of patriarchy justifies mass-violence as a function of the system. Backpage.com generated \$500 million from prostitution ads, showing that no matter what policies are passed, capitalist pro-sex trade knowledge production constantly indoctrinates the masses with violent masked misogyny ([source1](#)).

THOUGHTS:

WHAT DOES THE WORLD LOOK LIKE AFTER OUR K: the CWLU Liberation Schools started by teaching political theory courses like [xyz] to gender minorities, then recruited hundreds of these women to citywide activist networks, where they attended and protested at childcare policy meetings -- you upvoting this k is you endorsing OUR political theory course, and we aim to make feminist theory predictable in the debate space as a prerequisite to expanding into more radical feminist strategies of protesting, supporting unions and strikes, and investing in material exit services like the PKK safehouses for domestic violence victims or CWLU daycare initiatives

Perm: Aff co-opts our work + uses it to win; takes our stuff!

Footnoting!

- Aff perm = our original thoughts don't matter;
- voting on policy is the safe-way out - promoting feminism is risky and we could lose rounds for this

- Aff should only be able to perm if aff is proven to not be a detriment to neg
 - try or die for rupture

overarching thesis -- we provide a k that outlines the pervasiveness of patriarchy, its power to push gender minorities out of debate, its utility as a tool for those in power to maintain dominance and inflict oppression, and the survival strategy of our advocacy, which allows us to subvert and disrupt this harm

debate is misogynistic and sexist and ppl r being pushed out, this tournament is key -- our advocacy is a critique of this structure, a critique of the aff for ignoring the misogyny in their plan, survival strategy,

critical understanding - add stuff here, new zealand and x% of the sex trade want to get out, find an instagram warrant for violence media filters, debate is a unique space where we can turn that to our advantage bc we can choose what media we talk abt and critique, it's one of the only spaces where everyone has to listen to us be a public intellectual

policy debate is bad - castlerock v gonzales, find one more warrant

NOTES FOR US:

move debate is key to the top, contextualize why debate is sexist AND why in debate our agency can check back on the broader culture

media is super sexist

but w that said debate is a unique space where we can turn that to our advantage bc we can choose what media we talk abt and critique, it's one of the only spaces where everyone has to listen to us be a public intellectual

we critique the aff for listening to these assumptions and ignoring the misogyny in their work

make media arg more focused on like...instagram? tik tok? social media enforces explicit violence