



"Bringing Debate to the Bluegrass!"

BDC Voting Issues Sample (v. 1.0)
Topic: Increasing Organic Agriculture
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BDC VOTING ISSUES SAMPLES (PRO)

"In this speech, I will share each of our voting issues with you..."

"Our first 'voting issue' is..."

PRO-01: Protecting the Environment

I. [Choose = 10+ sec]: "We think the most important argument is..."

"Protecting the environment"

Because...

Conventional farming threatens to destroy nature by poisoning the environment

II. [Convince = 30 sec]: "We believe that we are winning this argument, because..."

"In the first speech, my partner told you..."

If we don't increase organic farming, then the environment will be ruined because synthetic fertilizers and pesticides used by conventional farms are destroying biodiversity. We prevent this from happening by switching to organic farming.

"My partner also told you..."

1. *First...* Bees, which are vital to entire ecosystems are being wiped out by conventional farming!

2. *Also...* _____

3. *Also...* _____

"This proves it was incorrect for our opponents to say..."

III. [Convince = 15-20 sec]: "So..."

"If you vote for the PRO side, then..."

Biodiversity for millions of species is protected from the synthetic chemicals causing "Dead Zones" in our soil and water.

Also... _____

"If you vote for the CON side, then..."

Millions of people/animals, plus billions of other organisms could be killed and many will go extinct due to factory farming!

Also... _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will protect the environment!



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"Our next 'voting issue' is..."

PRO-02: Improving People's Health

I. [Choose = 10+ sec]: "We think another important argument is..."

"Improving People's Health"

Because...

Conventional farming methods threaten people's health by poisoning our food and our drinking water.

II. [Convince = 30 sec]: "We believe that we are winning this argument, because..."

"In the first speech, my partner told you..."

Synthetic chemicals used by conventional farms as pesticides and fertilizers are poisoning our food and water. However, organic farming produces nutritious food without using these chemicals.

"My partner also told you..."

1. *First...* Organic food is high in nutrition because the soil is cleaner and has more nutrients in it.
2. *Also...* _____
3. *Also...* _____

"This proves it was incorrect for our opponents to say..."

III. [Convince = 15-20 sec]: "So..."

"If you vote for the PRO side, then..."

Hundreds of millions of people will be healthier from eating more nutritious food.

Also... _____

"If you vote for the CON side, then..."

Millions of people will suffer from the poisons in our food from cancer-causing chemicals, preservatives, and hormones.

Also... _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will make people healthier!

So, for all these reasons, please vote in favor of **increasing organic agriculture**. Thank you.



"Our next 'voting issue' is..."

PRO-03: Increasing Food Security

I. [Choose = 10+ sec]: "We think another important argument is..."

"Increasing Food Security"

Because...

Conventional farming methods threaten food security by poisoning the soil and water supply.

II. [Convince = 30 sec]: "We believe that we are winning this argument, because..."

"In the first speech, my partner told you..."

Synthetic chemicals used by conventional farms are destroying the soil and water and threatening future food production.

"My partner also told you..."

1. *First...* Organic farming is capable of feeding the world and at times can even outperform conventional farming.
2. *Also...* _____
3. *Also...* _____

"This proves it was incorrect for our opponents to say..."

III. [Convince = 15-20 sec]: "So..."

"If you vote for the PRO side, then..."

We guarantee enough healthy and sustainable food to feed billions of people around the world.

Also... _____

"If you vote for the CON side, then..."

You risk losing billions of lives due to further declines in conventional food production as the soil and water are destroyed.

Also... _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will increase food security!

So, for all these reasons, please vote in favor of **increasing organic agriculture**. Thank you. "The next argument I will defend is..."



"Our next 'voting issue' is..."

PRO-04: Protecting Farm Animals

I. [Choose = 10+ sec]: "We think another important argument is..."

"Protecting Farm Animals"

Because...

Conventional farming methods cause harm and suffering for millions of animals each year.

II. [Convince = 30 sec]: "We believe that we are winning this argument, because..."

"In the first speech, my partner told you..."

Animal welfare laws don't do enough to protect animals from being mistreated by conventional farms because farm animals are not included. Yet, organic rules will protect these animals from overcrowding and so many other abuses.

"My partner also told you..."

1. *First...* How the Humane League warns us about farm animal abuse being commonplace and harmful to animals.
2. *Also...* _____
3. *Also...* _____

"This proves it was incorrect for our opponents to say..."

III. [Convince = 15-20 sec]: "So..."

"If you vote for the PRO side, then..."

We ensure that farm animals are not harmed by organic farmers and there will be plenty of space for them to live in.

Also... _____

"If you vote for the CON side, then..."

You allow billions of animals to suffer because conventional farmer workers are not punished for overcrowding and abuse.

Also... _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will prevent the abuse of farm animals!

So, for all these reasons, please vote in favor of **increasing organic agriculture**. Thank you.



BDC VOTING ISSUES SAMPLES (CON)

"In this speech, I will share each of our voting issues with you..."

"Our first 'voting issue' is..."

CON-01: Lacking Effectiveness

I. [Choose = 10+ sec]: "We think the most important argument is..."

"Lack of Effectiveness"

Because...

Organic farming regulations are not enforced properly, so little to none of the organic benefits will occur.

II. [Convince = 30 sec]: "We believe that we are winning this argument, because..."

"In the first speech, my partner told you..."

The organic industry lacks proper regulation and is being completely mismanaged so that the large agriculture businesses can get around many of the rules and do whatever they want; making minimal changes and doing what they usually do.

"My partner also told you..."

1. *First...* Research from "Columbia University" warns us that lack of regulations has led to weaker enforcement.
2. *Also...* _____
3. *Also...* _____

"This proves it was incorrect for our opponents to say..."

III. [Convince = 15-20 sec]: "So..."

"If you vote for the PRO side, then..."

You are being tricked into thinking things will be different, because the large industrial companies control the marketplace.
Advanced: *The PRO cannot deliver on any of their promises because most organic food comes from the giant companies.*

Also... _____

"If you vote for the CON side, then..."

Reliable growers won't harm the food, nor the environment, because they won't risk losing reputation and profit.

Also... _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will not be effective!



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"Our next 'voting issue' is..."

CON-02: Global Hunger

I. [Choose = 10+ sec]: "We think another important argument is..."

"Increasing Global Hunger"

Because...

Organic farming methods will threaten the global food security for literally billions of people.

II. [Convince = 30 sec]: "We believe that we are winning this argument, because..."

"In the first speech, my partner told you..."

Global hunger is rising due to a potential 98% increase in demand for food, yet organic farming produces much less food than conventional farming. So... over time, billions of people will suffer from food shortages.

"My partner also told you..."

1. First... "Columbia University" warns us that organic agriculture can lower food production by as much as 40%.
2. Also... _____
3. Also... _____

"This proves it was incorrect for our opponents to say..."

III. [Convince = 15-20 sec]: "So..."

"If you vote for the PRO side, then..."

Billions of people will suffer from malnutrition or possibly die from serious food shortages and rising food prices.

Also... _____

"If you vote for the CON side, then..."

We continue to produce healthy fresh food for not just our own citizens but for millions of people around the world.

Also... _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will cause food shortages and global hunger!

So, for all these reasons, please vote against **increasing organic agriculture**. Thank you.



"Our next 'voting issue' is..."

CON-03: Making Poverty Worse

I. [Choose = 10+ sec]: "We think another important argument is..."

"Making Poverty Worse"

Because...

Organic farming methods will produce very expensive food that many if not most people cannot afford to eat.

II. [Convince = 30 sec]: "We believe that we are winning this argument, because..."

"In the first speech, my partner told you..."

Organic food is incredibly expensive and that families living near or in poverty conditions will not be able to afford a switch to organic foods. The more organic food created means less conventional food, which would increase the price of all food.

"My partner also told you..."

1. *First...* "Harvard University" warns that organic products are typically 50% more expensive and not worth the cost.
2. *Also...* _____
3. *Also...* _____

"This proves it was incorrect for our opponents to say..."

III. [Convince = 15-20 sec]: "So..."

"If you vote for the PRO side, then..."

Hundreds of millions of people around the country will suffer from an increase in expensive foods that they cannot afford.

Also... _____

"If you vote for the CON side, then..."

We continue to produce plenty of fresh, healthy food for all of our citizens and for millions of people around the world too.

Also... _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will cause poverty to become worse!

So, for all these reasons, please vote against **increasing organic agriculture**. Thank you.



"Our next 'voting issue' is..."

CON-04: Harming Local Farmers

I. [Choose = 10+ sec]: "We think another important argument is..."

"Harming Local Farmers"

Because...

Organic farming methods are much too expensive and as such many local farms could go bankrupt if they try to switch.

II. [Convince = 30 sec]: "We believe that we are winning this argument, because..."

"In the first speech, my partner told you..."

Switching to organic is very costly and most local farmers cannot afford to make the switch and for those who do try, they are facing bankruptcy. So... many organic farmers will either go bankrupt or be forced to go back to regular farming.

"My partner also told you..."

1. *First...* "Harvard University" warns that organic labor costs are much higher and are too expensive for most farms.
2. *Also...* _____
3. *Also...* _____

"This proves it was incorrect for our opponents to say..."

III. [Convince = 15-20 sec]: "So..."

"If you vote for the PRO side, then..."

Tens of thousands of local farmers will risk losing their farm and go bankrupt due to the costs of organic farming.

Also... _____

"If you vote for the CON side, then..."

Most farmers will earn a comfortable living, employ many people, and provide fresh and healthy food for our communities.

Also... _____

Therefore...

Increasing organic agriculture will harm local farmers!

So, for all these reasons, please vote against **increasing organic agriculture**. Thank you.