**POLITICS**

The Politics Disad is either:

**Bush (Obama) Bad:** Bush (Obama) is currently pushing a bad policy (separate from the plan) but will not get it through Congress. When the Aff plan is passed via fiat, it makes Bush (Obama) more powerful which makes him able to pass the bad policy; or

**Bush (Obama) Good:** Bush (Obama) is currently pushing a good policy which will currently make it through Congress. When the Aff plan is passed, it makes Bush (Obama) less powerful which makes him unable to pass the good policy.

**In order to be a good politics debater, you must read the news**

How to determine whether they are running Bush (Obama) good or Bush bad (Obama). Obviously, ask the Negative straight out. If they are buttheads, look at the Uniqueness, if the negative is claiming that whatever the impact scenario will pass, it is Bush (Obama) good, if they claim that whatever the impact scenario will not pass, it is Bush (Obama) bad. For example, if the uniqueness is that “Economic Stimulus” will pass now but it will be close” this is Bush (Obama) good. If the uniqueness is that “Tax cuts will not pass now” this is Bush (Obama) bad.

**GLOSSARY**

Backlash: The action of rebelling against the leader of one’s party in retaliation for the leader doing something that is not popular with the rank and file

Base: The core supporters of your political party. In the Bush administration, the Republican base are conservative Christians who were able to turn out in great numbers to elect and re-elect Bush. There is a political theory that keeping base support is key to keeping Presidential political power

Bi-Partisanship: When representatives from both parties agree to work together on a certain issue such as the bank bailout

Congress: The legislative branch which is made up of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate. Bills which may become law may originate from either chamber but both must approve the bill by a majority vote.

Democrats: Currently, the majority political party in both the House and the Senate. However, the Democrats do not have sufficient majorities to override a filibuster. Democrats in general are perceived as the more liberal party

Fiat: The assumption that the affirmative plan is passed through normal means, thus Bush would be involved and have to spend political capital or reap the benefits as if he had actually passed the plan

Filibuster: A procedural mechanism which may be used in the Senate to block the vote on legislation. The minority party in the Senate may hold the floor with only 40% of the votes and not give it up which can stall the vote.

Flip-Flop: When a President changes his mind publicly on an issue. This is perceived as hypocritical thus draining political capital. This is usually a separate link to politics.

Focus: The concept that a President only has a limited amount of time to do things, and if presented with too many issues, he will lose focus on what he wishes to pass and not be able to pass it

GOP: Grand Old Party, nickname for the Republican Party

House or House of Representatives: One chamber of Congress which has representatives elected by population, i.e. the more populous states such as California get more representatives then Rhode Island. Each representative serves a two year term.

Hundred Days: The first three months of an incoming president’s administration. Generally regarded as a honeymoon period that defines the remainder of the president’s term.

Lobbies or Lobbyists: These are groups which have a particular agenda to push and attempt to influence Congress to vote favorably on their issue

Mid-Terms: The election which takes place between Presidential Elections. Typically the party in power will lose a certain number of seats in Congress during mid-term elections which may have an effect on the ability of that party to control Congress

Neo-Cons: Short for Neoconservatives, these are policy makers in the Republican party who believe that U.S. foreign policy should be based on the predominance of U.S. military power and we do not need to enlist the aid of our allies

Olive Branch: The concept of one party making a concession to the other party in exchange for support on another issue. An olive branch promotes bipartisanship

Partisanship: When Congress fights according to political party lines. Partisanship makes it difficult to pass bills because one party will oppose the other simply on principle

Political Capital: Influence which may be generated by popularity, favors, and other political means which enables a President to push their agenda

Popularity: The level of support among the general population that a President enjoys. This is typically measured by opinion polls. One political theory states that the more popular a President is, the more likely he will pass bills in Congress

Republicans: The political party which now is in the minority in both the Senate and the House. Republicans are generally perceived as more conservative

Speaker of the House: The leader of the House of Representatives and third in line for the Presidency. The Speaker of the House is a representative elected by the representatives of the majority party in the House of Representatives

Senate: A chamber of Congress which has Senators elected by each state. All states have 2 senators. Senators serve a six year term.

Senate Majority Leader: The leader of the Senate, the Senate Majority leader is a senator who is elected by the senators belonging to the majority party in the Senate

Whip: Representatives who serve as leaders for their party in the House of Representatives. Each party has two whips.

Winners win: A political theory that states when a President is able to score a legislative victory that makes him stronger because others fear him, thus making it more likely he will win further legislative victories