

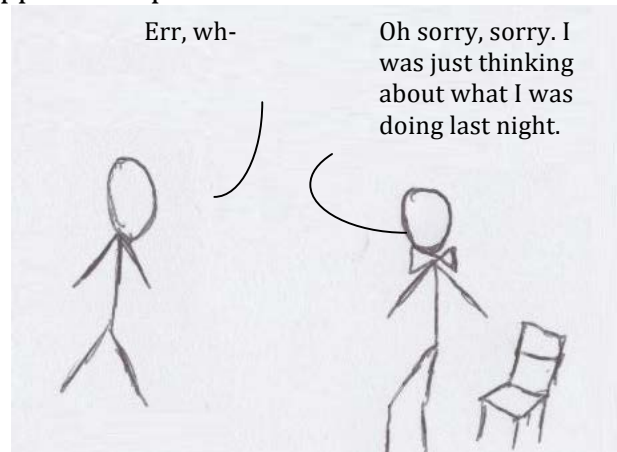
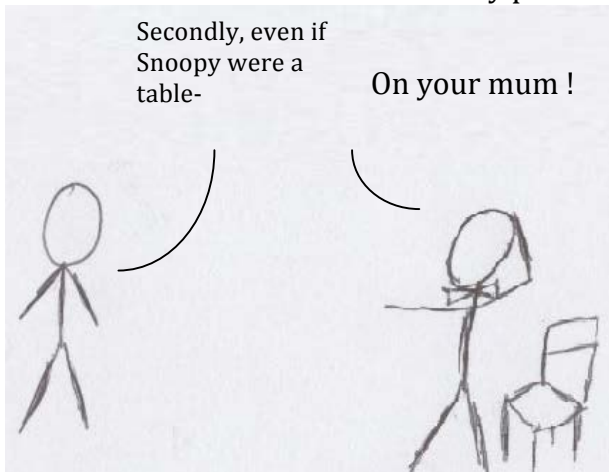
The Mudslinger

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How to Know More, Better

philosophical/anthropological idea of cultural relativism. Preparation of these themes, rather

By Tim Blair

One of the single most petrifying things in competitive debating is that moment when the screen flashes from “BROAD SUBJECT THEME HERE” to “INSERT TOPIC THAT I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA ABOUT HERE”. For many teams, particularly OG’s (Original Gangstaz), it can be frightening to head into a debate with absolutely no idea of what the topic encompasses.

That being said, the scope for topics at debating tournaments is immense, and it is unrealistic to expect that most debaters will have a detailed understanding on every conflict or international organisation in the world. Secondly, the most specific knowledge on any given conflict is not necessarily what is going to be most compelling in a competitive debate – for example, knowing all the permutations as to whether General Solomon Mujuru was assassinated recently is not necessarily going to be as central to winning a debate on power-sharing in Zimbabwe as the underlying analysis on how power-sharing can lead to greater outcomes, concessions, and a more open political process. This deeper level of analysis often comes from a different, more broad type of matter prep.

Whilst it is obviously important to keep up to date on current events, what I plan on introducing in this article is the concept of *Principled Matter Prep*; that is, analogising and applying specific circumstances to the first principles framework that underlies many debates. This is a helpful way to get the most out of your knowledge, by ensuring that what is relevant for a debate on invading Zimbabwe is equally relevant to an intervention debate set in Cote

D’Ivoire, or Syria. Similarly, facts which may be useful in a debate on Polygamy can be equally applicable to debates on the Burqa, or hymen reconstructive surgery, as all are broadly predicated on the



than individual circumstances, can often lead to more flexible knowledge, which is able to work best in conjunction with a well-crafted first principles case.

Think Broad, Think Principled

Many people think of ‘Matter prepping’ as simply trawling through The Economist, Slate, Salon and a multitude of other broad political media outlets, and reading everything possible. While this is obviously beneficial, the extent to which this knowledge can be applied is limited. Eg – reading an article on tribal structures in Yemen is fantastic for a debate on Yemen, but probably incredibly limiting for other debates. By no means does this mean this type of thing should be ignored completely, as it can make for fantastic extension analysis, were such a debate to arise, but rather it should be the type of thing that one covers after making sure the basic principles inherent to the types of IR debates involving Yemen encompass. For example, in International Relations debates, these themes are more often than not going to be focused on

- Efficacy of invasions – how can we gauge whether an invasion is likely to be successful?
- Efficacy of alternative proposals: Sanctions, amnesties, ICC prosecution.

1 One other important thing to note is that by no means is the aforementioned über-specific information mutually exclusive from these principles – e.g. it can be really helpful in a debate on invading Yemen to look at the principle of efficacy of intervention, and to recognise that one such obstacle to an effective intervention are the informal tribal structures which exist, particularly when there is a strong overlap between many of those tribal structures and much of the corruption/violence/terrorism which any such intervention seeks to eradicate.

The overarching point here is that this information is not beneficial in and of itself, but rather will help you win debates because it relates *specifically* to the first principles which need to be established in order to be successful.

As such, any matter preparation before major tournaments should ensure that the things that are being researched relate to the basic principles which underpin any debate on these areas.

Finding Parallels Throughout the World

Another common misconception in matter prepping is the idea that everything you research needs to be from the exact situation in question. In fact, much of the best analysis you can find comes from different situations. Why? Generally debates centre around a normative proposal of what *should* happen – inherently precluding any empirical analysis of the situation at hand. In debates such as these, two things need to be done:

- Characterize the actors in question – are they rational? What do they seek? What is their worldview?
- Show how actors with the same rationale have acted in the past.

The first point is pivotal, and requires more detail. This will happen in the third subheading of this article.

The second point is incredibly important for those circumstances where you a) have no idea about the topic in question, or b) The opening half has matter-dumped on the topic in question, and you are looking for an extension.

The first situation relates to what happened to my team at the most recent Worlds, held in Botswana. The topic for round 8 of debates¹ was that “This House Believes the South African Development Community should pursue political unity”. We had no idea about who the SADC were, what they did, or why they did it. At the time we were foolish, and instead ran an extension about the political will needed to oust Mugabe (as we assumed [correctly] that Zimbabwe were part of the SADC). In hindsight,



however, a more principled case on the benefits of political unity would be able to prove these points much more substantively. This is the type of situation where analysis of other Economic-cum-political unions

throughout the world could have been vital in proving our case (provided the actors in question had similar motivations). It was here that having done more in-depth preparation on the Arab League, African Union, or even European Union² would have been greatly beneficial. As such, the matter prep that would have been most helpful didn’t necessarily even have to be about the SADC, but rather could have been principled analysis about what supranational political unions bring, and how they change the calculus of state leaders.

READ ME!³

¹ (A pretty important round, as there are 9 in total, and being at the periphery of the break would mean that a win in this round would almost certainly mean breaking, and a loss would almost certainly mean we would not) – as it turned out, that was exactly what happened – the top two teams in that room broke 20th & 28th respectively, while our team (who came 3rd) and the team which came last, failed to make the break.

² Although to be fair, the first half attempted to do this, and it was utterly ridiculous, because the situations in the EU and Southern Africa are clearly quite different, with clearly different motivations, economic structures, etc. A parallel can be drawn, but it’s a stretch.

³ I don’t want to continue ranting about this, but for more examples of how parallel argumentation can be very effective, look at principles such as Amnesties (eg for debates on Paul Kagame, Joseph Kony) by looking at

As such, much of the best material relating to IR comes from parallels throughout the world, so next time you're stuck in a debate on Syria, talk about Iran.⁴

Characterizing actors

For those of you who are sick of me talking about International Relations debates, pay attention now. One of the most effective techniques for using matter to win social policy debates (although also IR debates) is the ability to characterise any given actor who is likely to participate in a proposal. For example:

- Who is likely to be a surrogate mother under a paid surrogacy scheme?
- Why it is important to certain religions to legalise polygamy?
- Who are the women who choose to wear the Burqa? (Is their consent legitimate?)

The answers to these questions are far from concrete. In all likelihood, during a debate that we should legalise paid surrogacy, the affirmative team will say that it's just women wanting to earn a little bit of extra money, and is completely legitimate for them to do so. The negative team is likely to say that consent is never legitimate in these circumstances, because the women likely to take part in paid surrogacy are going to be those with very few other options, since pregnancy is so invasive.

Similarly, for the third option, if we were debating banning the burqa, the affirmative would say that women are victims of a patriarchal society, and they can't freely consent to wearing the burqa because often their husband forces it upon them, and there is an element of coercion. A negative team might talk about the burqa as something positive (e.g. women reclaiming it out of choice during the Iranian revolution), characterising the women as fully able to make a legitimate decision.

The important thing to note about these debates, especially in relation to learning more about the issues, is that reading up on these

types of topics can be incredibly effective in owning that characterisation. For example, when debating legalising polygamy from the negative, it is immensely beneficial to cite practices whereby polygamy is *actively* objectively harmful. Characterising the women as funky church-goers who buy into the system of Mormonism can work effectively for the affirmative if done really well, so it's necessary to have hard facts above and beyond "many women belonging to one man" to negate that. This is where cold hard facts on the ways women in polygamous relationships work (e.g. one is the child-bearer, one is the cook, all trapped inside the home) display just how regressive and oppressive these family structures are. That's the characterisation which is important to own.

In conclusion to this sub-section, to whatever extent the information found matter-prepping about a given situation isn't based on first principles (and it still largely should be), it can be really helpful to have information which helps you sell the characterisation of the actors in question. This is particularly useful in social policy debates, where it frequently seems like matter is unimportant, or largely intuitive.

Conclusion

Ultimately, how everyone wishes to debate is entirely up to them. For many debaters, the concept of matter prepping is something they don't particularly care to spend much time on, which is fine. Debating is up to the individual, and if you just want to do it casually and recreationally, then that's every bit as valid as those people who put in hours trying to improve their debating. What I've tried to convey in this article are some ways to improve your preparation for debates, and how best to use this information in keeping with a first principles debating ideology, in order to get the most out of all the information available out there. Hopefully this makes for more dynamic debates, more interesting debates, and more importantly, more MUDS victories!

Charles Taylor's amnesty agreement, or look at the ICC through using people such as Omar Al-Bashir & Thomas Lubanga. This type of material based on principle will well equip anyone for the basic clash in debates on African leaders, and sometimes even more broadly.

⁴ But not actually. Just recognise that analysis on other states can be relevant.

An Introduction to Tertiary Model UN

By Oscar Dang

What is Model UN (MUN)?

Model UN (MUN) in theory, a form of debating that simulates the workings of the United Nations in various committees. In practice, if you have ever wanted to have a right to reply to someone who's been completely wrong in a debate, ever wanted to create a model that was actually detailed enough to actually work, and actually work together to reach consensus rather than always being diametrically opposed; this is the kind of debating for you.



Each competition is structured with a large number of committees. You only have one committee for each tournament, and these will reflect committees of the real UN. You'll be allocated a country and be expected to take their stance.

There are a lot of differences between Model UN and normal debating. The

most noticeable one is that instead of having two clearly defined sides, you can have anywhere between 10 and 200 teams in the one committee. You are debating with and against *all of them*. Sometimes you'll agree with each other, sometimes you'll disagree. The aim isn't just to prove that you're right, the aim is to achieve the specific agenda of your country.

What do I need to do in debate?

For each tournament you will likely be given one, maybe two topics in advance. It's likely you'll only debate one topic. There are three things you need to do in Model UN at a tertiary

level; Speaking (duh), Unmoderated Caucus/Negotiation and Resolution Writing.

Speaking: This is the easy part. Basically, throughout the committee sessions, you'll be expected to speak several times on your country's stance. Speaking time can be anywhere from 30 seconds to 3 minutes depending on what stage of debate you're in. You're going to need to be *brief*. But then again, you don't need to smash out three key points and rebuttal. You only need to talk about what's relevant at that particular stage in the debate, since it's likely you'll get to speak again.

There are two different ways you can speak. The first is on a speaker's list, which is a formal list of speakers where you list yourself for or against a topic, and you move down the list. This is first in best dressed, and being on the speaker's list is voluntary.

The second is in moderated caucus. This is a form of speaking time proposed by a competitor with specific time limits and limits to the number of speakers, that suspends the speaker's list and lets you speak by putting your hand up to be called. You'll spend most of your time doing this. And here, you'll get to speak as much (or as little) as you like.

Unmoderated Caucus/Negotiation: Ever wanted to tell someone in your debate that they are really, *really* wrong? Caucus is your chance. This is when you suspend the rules of procedure and are able to speak to the other competitors face to face. This is a great chance to convince them to support you (remember they don't have a fixed stance). Alternatively, depending on the tournament, you can just walk out of the room to negotiate with people at any time.

This takes a completely different form of persuasive skill, and also diplomacy. Obnoxious debaters fail here. Because if you're a dick, you won't get any support.

Here the most important thing is to control the conversation in the room, this is what lets you win in "Unmod" and negotiation.

Resolution Writing: The final goal of this debate is to come up with a resolution that has enough support to pass. Over the few days of the tournament, you will start to write up a resolution. Everyone who's any good will be writing up competing resolutions, with only one able to pass. This is when you start vying for support, backstabbing anyone in your way and making some serious compromises. The aim is to have as much of the resolution that is passed be written by you as possible. Having a laptop is a must, and being able to think in the UN's very particular form of legalese is also a plus. Tournaments are won and lost on who gets their way on resolutions.

How can I get involved?

There's a significant MUN circuit in Australia, just in every state other than Victoria. Monash has started to attend tournaments, and La Trobe has been doing it for a few years now. There are some tournaments like BrizMUN that are smaller (Think of them as the equivalent of minis). There are also international comps like AMUNC (Kind of like Australs, and held at the same time) which will be in Melbourne next year, and WorldMUN (Like Worlds and held in March) which will be held in Vancouver next year.

The advantage of MUN over tournaments like Australs and Worlds is that it is much easier to get a spot, and you can register as an individual without a delegation. Also, although these tournaments can be massive (the Harvard National has over 3000 delegates), you generally make good friendships because you spend so much time with your particular committee.

Also, 2012 is a great year to get involved with MUN since AMUNC (The Australasian Model UN Conference) is in Melbourne, which makes it way cheaper than going to New Zealand (which isn't all that different from Melbourne anyway, right?)

Random Fun Facts about MUN

- Other than representing a country, some committees let you be anything from counsel to judge on the ICC.
- A US study of Collegiate MUNs found that 70% of Crisis style MUN end in nuclear war.

- There is an entire MUN circuit in the US that can be completed over our Summer break (which is their MUN season)
- MUN has been known to expand beyond the UN into a "Crisis Simulation", which basically uses the rules of MUN to simulate various world events.
- Every Easter Chicago University run ChoMUN, which run different fictional MUNs and Crisis Simulations. Past topics include a Harry Potter MUN. Next year will feature a simulated HUAC (as in McCarthyism), and a simulation of the 2012 Republican National Convention.

The Environment

Gen Stewart

As the resident latte-sipping, carbon-neutral, hairy-legged, tofu-munching, protest-attending limp-wristed pinko greenie dirty hippy of MUDS, I am adrift in a sea of young Libs and Labor hacks. In the midst of all these economic rationalists and coal enthusiasts, I occasionally feel like the socialist my arch-nemesis, Nick Liau¹, would have you believe I am. This, madam speaker, is simply not true.

In honour of said nemesis, I've decided to explain the environment (yes, *the whole environment*²) and why I'm such a tree-hugger in "conversation with Nick Liau" format. NL denotes the confusion of a free-market economic liberal such as Nick Liau, and DH denotes the answers to his multitudinous questions by myself, the dirty hippy. Shall we?

NL: Dirty hippy, does climate change exist? Really? Like, really really?

DH: Yes. Shut the fuck up and listen to the 97.4% of climatologists who say so. Would you question 97.4% of oncologists who told you that you had cancer, and proceed as usual? Would you question their motives because a whole lot of rich people would like it if cancer didn't exist? Would you question the validity of literally any other scientific field's foremost experts and the overwhelming majority (overwhelming as in absolutely no peer-reviewed articles denying or even questioning the existence of anthropogenic climate change in *decades*) of their research? The correct answer is "hellz to the no."



NL: Yeah, but it's not *that* bad, is it? I mean, it'd be so expensive to stop using coal, and "alternative" energies aren't even that great at making power, right?

DH: Actually, it's pretty bad. The fact that all of the natural disasters around the world over the past few years (bar earthquakes/volcanoes, although there is evidence that melting sea ice=crust pressure redistribution=seismic/volcanic activity) have been referred to as "the new normal" should be enough of a wake-up call, although it doesn't seem to have been. We're talking half a billion – that's right, billion – people displaced by direct or indirect effects of climate change within a century. The genocide in Sudan began when existing ethnic tensions were inflamed by water shortages. Lack of resources will hit the world's poorest people the hardest, and we are already seeing this in action. Tropics will expand, and with the expansion will come tropical diseases and malaria-carrying mosquitoes. In Australia, desertification, already a huge problem, will increase. Farmland will be diminished. It's predicted the likelihood of extreme catastrophic bushfires will increase tenfold: that's black saturday every 4-5 years. I defended my house from ember attack on black saturday, and I'd probably be dead right now had the wind not changed. That's why I do this.

Furthermore, every peer-reviewed study in reputable journals has found that the cost of inaction is far, far greater than the cost of action. UniMelb's Energy Research Department and Beyond Zero Emissions showed in their 2010 report "Zero Carbon Australia 2020" that it's not only physically possible, but economically feasible for Australia to be powered by 100% renewable stationary energy within ten years³. Solar-thermal energy currently provides 24-hour baseload energy in Spain. Australia is the sunniest continent, and the windiest inhabited one, and much of this technology is Australian. It's cheaper for us to go renewable than any other country in the world, and yet we have one of the OECD's lowest emissions reduction targets and smallest renewables (it's "renewable," not "alternative," thank you) sectors. The second-richest man in China has a



degree from UNSW and tried to start his business in Australia. The market for solar energy wasn't big enough here, so he moved to the country that's supposedly the benchmark for Australia's climate policy, and became a billionaire several times over. Although renewables require significant start-up capital, within ten years of 100% renewables, the cost of energy would fall. The only reason we're not making the safe and sensible decision is because climate change is a political football, and the public and politicians are so easily manipulated by lobbyists for the fossil fuel industry. Put simply, it's not that we can't afford to act, it's that we can't afford not to.



NL: Why are you such a radical dirty hippy communist who wants to carbon-tax us all to death?

DH: I'm actually not. Here's some food for thought: I believe that Australia's, and the world's emissions reduction targets should be in line with what the science says is necessary to avoid an average global temperature rise of 1.5-2°C. This is generally accepted as the "tipping point" at which we can expect to see catastrophic climate change - eg: when permafrost melts, it releases huge amounts of methane, which is a greenhouse gas about 72 times as powerful as CO₂. This causes more warming, which causes more methane release, which causes more warming and so on. Scary, right?

I support market mechanisms to incentivise emissions reduction, science-based targets, and a transition to a renewable energy economy. In a country with the best renewable resources in the world, where technology to provide 24-hour baseload renewable power is mature and commercially available, and where we currently have the highest emissions per capita in the

world, I hardly think that's particularly radical. The government's carbon-pricing package, while hardly sufficient, is at least a step in the right direction. A major reason the Copenhagen negotiations failed in 2009 (poor countries: "please help us, we are literally sinking" rich countries: "yeah, we'll probably save the world. Later.") was that not enough countries had actual policies in place. Because no-one knew what anyone else was prepared to do, no one wanted to stick their neck out. This year, at the UNFCCC's COP17 in Durban, South Africa, the UK comes with a target of 50% reductions by 2027 and 85% by 2050. China comes with a carbon price, and the highest installed renewable capacity in the world. Australia comes with a carbon price. This is an opportunity to quite literally decide the future of the world, and if Australia brings something decent to the table, that increases the chance of that future being a safe one.

NL: Oh, ok, I guess I'd better tell my politicians that climate action is kind of important then.

DH: Hellz to the motherfucking yeah you should.

End scene.

1. I don't hate Nick Liau. He just likes to call me a socialist. And, being sciencey as he is, I'm pretty sure he's not a climate change denier.
2. Not really. Mostly climate change.
3. If you want a copy of the report, ask me!

A Rather One-Sided/Defamatory/Irrelevant Summary of What MUDS is Like For Its First Year Members

Anonymous

My time at MUDS started off in a rather telling fashion with the Commencement Dinner. Expecting to be introduced to a society of refined and intelligent individuals, I instead met a bunch of slightly strange homosexuals with a shared passion for two-dollar bottles of wine. Falling into several of those categories myself, I felt that I fitted in right from the start- that is until Vomboy did his magic all over the restaurant that we were in. Nevertheless I found myself coming back each Tuesday night to David Caro Podium or wherever the fuck the university had decided that debating was that night.

All was going well, at least until Easters. Having returned from my idyllic peasant village to catch the 8am contingent bus to Adelaide, I decided that breakfast could be foregone in lieu of a goonsack and half a bottle of my college wine. Classy? Not really. A wise decision? Not particularly- realising that I would have to spend around seven hours on the bus with a large hangover and Daniel Tram's selection of J-Pop made me regret it a little. However, when we got to Adelaide all was forgotten- especially on the second night where I got so drunk that I attempted to have sex with an L-shaped Tetris piece, broke a lamp and soiled a particularly angry Monash Asian's bathroom towel. For that I blame Tim Blair. In terms of other foolish shit that didn't directly involve me; Jess Clarence made out with Stephen Ward who made out with Michael Beulkaman and every attempt we had at a room party was shut down by the bogan Adelaide mindas who were living around us. Debating wise- Easters went well, both Henry and I got to know our president well: both his likes (young boys who look like his mum and Simon To) and his dislikes (girls and self-esteem). More on that later...

After experiencing my first bout of post-tournament depression; debating got back into full swing. At the MUDS party, another drunken

affair, this time at the President's mansion, I began to learn a lot more about the society's most respected and senior members. Having not spoken that much to Steph D'Souza, I quickly learnt that she doesn't like it too rough in bed. Like our President, Kelly demonstrated that she liked her meat fresh- particularly so in the President's parents' bed. But I digress...

Towards the end of the semester I somehow managed to make it onto the MUDS Australs contingent. Flights were booked, hours of matter prep was delayed and finally completed and a large amount of duty free alcohol was purchased. Again I managed to make a drunken fool of myself- irritating our hotel management, the org com, the room of female debaters I doorknocked at 1am as well as the middle aged Korean lady who refused the Korean rice wine I offered her out of a (stolen) Japanese teapot whilst yelling 'PARTY!' in the lobby. Shamefully, that was only the first night. Interspersed with my generally obnoxious behaviour was some debating- some excellent wins and questionable losses. It was fantastic to be able to participate in such a high quality tournament; witness several high quality debates and visit the majority of the Ho Bars in the Hongdei bar district. It's been a pretty good year so far for me- here's to the next couple!

Anti-Options Arguments

Philip Hilton

Streetsmart politicians are very fond of the notion that more options are better than less. For them, it wins votes. Everyone wants more choices, of course, but when it comes to certain kinds of rights, rights like euthanasia, divorce, and even negotiating with terrorists, it's worth considering whether we're better off without them. At President's Cup, our team (MC Philton feat. A. Boer!) faced off against Sam Whitney's in what proved to be a rather easy win (sorry Sam!), opposing on the topic that we should negotiate with terrorists. One of the reasons for that was that our central claim, that more options are better, was never really challenged.

Along with black market arguments, anti-options arguments are actually one of the most widely applicable arguments in debating. I'll look at three cases where anti-options arguments apply: cases of 'soft' negotiation, cases of 'hard' negotiation, and cases where negotiation is internalized.

The central claim of anti-options arguments is encapsulated in the idea that *simply having a choice may disadvantage you*. Not having choices can give you power, due to the nature of negotiation. Consider the recent debt-ceiling negotiations between the Democrats and the Republicans. The Tea Party essentially ensured that almost no realistic options were on the table for the Republicans. Tax-raises were out. Cutting defense was out. Many of them even ruled out any raising of the debt-ceiling at all. The Democrats had significantly more options -- tax-raises, raising the debt-ceiling, and even certain cuts to entitlements. So it comes as no surprise that the Democrats were the ones forced to make most of the concessions, because *in 'soft' negotiation cases like this, whoever has more ideological options has to make more concessions*.

Equally, however, there are 'hard' negotiation cases, where quantities, as well as qualitative options are on the line. Most notable is the question of organ sale. At first glance, it would appear that if you can sell your organs, then your family's bottom line has been increased. A kidney recently auctioned on eBay received bids

of up to \$8,000,000 (before it was closed down by authorities). In reality, legalizing organ sales can actually decrease your real options. For instance, it's hardly incredible to imagine, that, from the moment organ sales became legal, banks would accept them as collateral. Not only that, but banks would begin to *require* them as collateral, especially for the less wealthy. And so these less wealthy people would be *forced* to use their kidneys as collateral. Rather than having given them an option, we have in fact *reduced their options in monetary negotiations*.

But there are many different ways in which having an option can disadvantage you. In a right to die debate, the issue of options is more subtle, since there is no formal negotiation process ongoing. Rather, the problem in the right to die debate is that *when people know you have an option, you are compelled to justify not taking the option*. Anyone who has ever been asked by their parents to justify drinking understands that certain decisions that involve intangibles (feeling happy) vs such statistics as pedestrian fatalities can be very hard to explain. Of course, if we were to grant a right to die, a patient's family would hopefully not ask him to continue to justify the expense of his continued existence vs. the happiness he obtains from his feeding-tube. But the patient would assume that they have these concerns, and given the value he would naturally put on their friendship, one of the few pleasures he has left, he might be led to choose death. He might rationally choose death based on these concerns, while at the same time *wishing that he had never been given the choice at all*.

Most of us have grown up to the memory of George Bush, with his enigmatic statement "All options are on the table," and have assumed that more options are better. But what Mr. Bush is actually expressing is something much more like "No options are on the table: we'll get what we want by any means." Nasty as that sounds, it gives him an excellent standpoint for negotiations -- hard, soft, and internal -- which explains why fewer options is sometimes better.

Matter Prep with Daniel Golder*

Nick Liou

Dear Golder,

The other week, an opposition team claimed that legalised prostitution in the Netherlands has been a raging success. I know very little about this particular example. Can you use your vast knowledge to remedy this lacuna of matter?

From
A First Year

Dear First Year,

Thank you for your question about military hardware. The M1 Abrams tank is the main battle tank of the United States army. A product of cold war thinking, it has many features which are well suited to the type of open warfare which was expected to take place in Western Europe if war broke out with the USSR. A gas turbine engine, rather than a traditional reciprocating diesel engine, gives the M1 an exceptionally high power to weight ratio, allowing it to sustain speeds of up to 72km/h. Further, a computerised fire-control system allows the M1 to accurately aim and fire its primary armament (the M256 120mm smoothbore gun, in case you were interested), even whilst on the move.

As you probably know, the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 90s. Thus the M1 has only ever seen combat in the Middle East. It performed admirably against the inferior tanks of the Iraqi army in Operation Desert Storm in 1991. However in more recent years, many features of the M1 have proven less than optimal for the type of urban combat now commonly seen in the region. The gas turbine engine requires significantly more fuel than a traditional engine, making logistical supply to the American front lines more difficult. Additionally, the hot exhaust gases emitted

from the turbine make it impossible for infantry to closely follow the tank, leaving them exposed in the dangerous urban environment. Finally, whilst the strong front armour of the tank would have been effective in holding off masses of Soviet tanks in a full frontal assault, the M1 has particularly weak side and rear armour,

increasing the effectiveness of insurgent ambushes.

Nonetheless, the M1 is still undisputedly effective in its intended role. Whilst vulnerable in urban warfare, where overwhelming amounts of direct fire are required, the Abrams is still unrivalled by the militaries of any other non-Western nation.



In 2006, Australia purchased 59 second hand M1s from the United States for use in our own armed forces. In the United States, depleted uranium is commonly used within the armour of the tanks. With an exceptionally high density of 19.1g/cm³,

it is ideally suited to stopping kinetic penetrator type weapons. Unfortunately, the Australian government's irrational concern about the use of depleted uranium led to the removal of this layer of armour, and has left Australian troops with substandard protection on the battlefield.

So as you can see, the Netherlands' experiment with legalised prostitution has indeed been a very successful one.

From
Golder

*Both of these statements are lies. This is neither matter prep, nor is it actually with Daniel Golder.

“

THE CULTURE AT
FREEHILLS IS VARIED
BUT STILL VERY
COHESIVE. **THERE'S
NO MOULD.** BUT IT'S A
TEAM ENVIRONMENT.

Sarah Benbow

Senior Associate
Litigation, Melbourne

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