

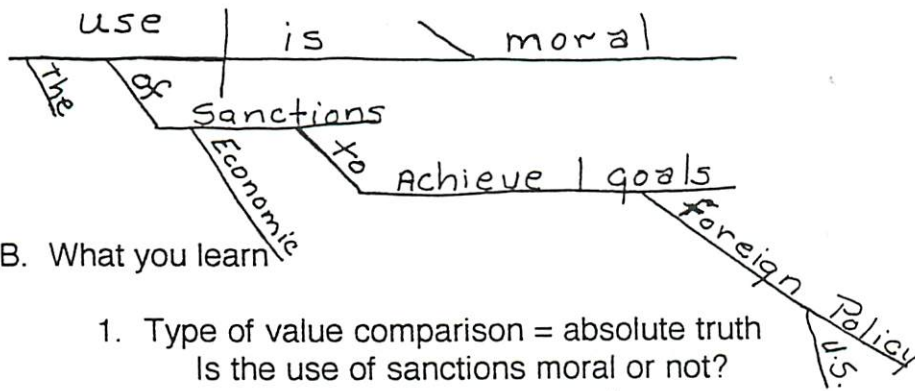
# ANALYSIS OF THE INSTITUTE TOPIC

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Resolved: The use of economic sanctions to achieve U. S. Foreign Policy goals is moral. *A Candidate's personal character ought to be valued more than his public performance.*

## I. Step 1: Identify the grammatical structure of the resolution:

A.



B. What you learn

1. Type of value comparison = absolute truth  
Is the use of sanctions moral or not?
2. What is value conflict
  - a. individual v. self
  - b. The nation [individual] must answer the moral action
3. Action
  - a. The end that is to be achieved is foreign policy goals.
  - b. The word use implies that the economic sanction will happen, not that it is simply a threat.
  - c. The question, however, deals directly with MORAL decision making.
4. The agent of action is the US government

## Step 2: Define all the terms

[All definitions from American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 3rd edition, 1996]

- A. **Use**--employment; act of using  
Again, the definition implies actual employment, not just threat.
- B. **economic**--of or relating to the practical necessities of life; of or relating to the production development and management of material wealth, as of a country, household, or business enterprise.
- C. **sanctions**: A penalty, specified or in the form of moral pressure, that acts to ensure compliance or conformity. [note that the goal of a sanction is compliance, in this case with achieving US foreign policy goals]
- D. **to achieve**: to perform or carry out with success [This word is used in the infinitive form as an adjective, modifying "use." This means that, while it is assumed when they are implemented that sanctions will work, it does not mean that they will actually always work. In this debate, the question is not whether they work, but whether or not they are moral. If the debate had been about justice, then workability and cost/benefit analysis would be a more important issue.]

E. **foreign policy**: diplomatic policy of a nation in its interactions with other nations.

F. **goals**: the purpose toward which an endeavor is directed; an objective.

G. **moral**: conforming to standards of what is right or just in behavior; arising from conscience, or the sense of right and wrong.

Define moral in general terms because this is the area that will become the basis of the VP and criteria debate.

**Step 3: Identify real-world examples within the topic area:**

A. China

B. Iraq

C. Japan--embargo on scrap metal because of Japan's war on China resulted in the bombing of Pearl Harbor

D. South Africa

E. Cuba--read about the Pope's statement on US sanctions

F. Korea--imposed after the Korean War to squeeze North Korea.

Read quote from article.

**Step 4: Read general commentaries on the specifics of the topic**

IPO

Living Issues in Ethics by Nolan and Kirkpatrick

**V. Step 5: What values are embedded in the resolution**

A. Look at what each side can claim as a value

1. Affirmative

expression of our national moral outrage

human rights

world peace

moral leadership

individual freedoms

spreading of democracy

2. Negative

cultural relativism--each country should be able to decide its own fate without outside interference.

moral autonomy--a people's ability to determine their own fate

social contract--US gov't's responsibility to maintain our economic stability

B. value premises  
clearly within some realm of morality

social contract  
harm principle  
justice  
protection of human rights

**Step 6 :Take each value to the extreme**

- A. aff = America ignoring moral outrages--ignoring the slaughter of Jews in Nazi Germany
- B. neg = American imperialism
- C. middle ground = how does America become a moral leader in protecting individuals all around the globe

**Step 7:List all potential arguments**

- A. Aff
  - America's belief that ALL people are equal and deserve human rights
  - America's obligation to establish an arena for world peace
- B. Neg
  - backlash--children starving because of America's actions
  - America has no right to impose its moral standards on other nations
  - America loses its leadership position because sanctions frequently fail

**Step 8: Read general articles on specific areas.**

**Step 9: Decide on case positions**