**SAMPLE NEGATIVE CASE**

**December 2011**

*We negate today’s topic…*

**RESOLVED:** In the United States, current income disparities threaten democratic ideals.

**DEFINITIONS: Threaten & Democratic Ideals**

*We begin with definitions…*

We’d like to offer RAND Corporation’s definition of “threaten” as it pertains to risk assessment and cross-apply it here in today’s debate. Under their framework, “threat” is composed of two key components: intent and capability. Something cannot be considered a threat unless it has both the capability and intent to inflict harm. (The Dynamic Terrorist Threat, RAND Corporation, 2004)

“Democratic ideals” can refer to a number of different things. Because this debate is U.S. specific, we believe it should refer to the ideals outlined in our nation’s founding documents as well those generally accepted and practiced in our country. This includes everything from the ideals of “life, liberty, and property,” individual rights, as well as: access to quality education, equality of opportunity, one person one vote, justice, participation, etc. etc. The affirmative is responsible for identifying specific ideals in today’s debate.

**STANDARD: Affirmative Burden of Proof**

*This leads us to the standard…*

This round will ultimately come down to the affirmative’s burden of proof, specifically as it pertains to our definition of “threaten.” Our opponents cannot win this debate unless they identify several key “democratic ideals” and then prove, through a direct causal relationship, how income disparity has both the intent and capability of threatening those ideals.

*With all of that said, we have two main arguments…*

**CONTENTION 1: Capitalism is Necessary for Democracy**

Our first main argument is that capitalism is necessary for democracy. In actuality, this isn’t even an argument: it’s an irrefutable fact. Never in the history of human civilization has there ever existed a truly successful and long-lasting democracy that operated under an economic system other than capitalism. Dr. Manuel Cereijo, Professor Emeritus of the University of Miami, explains by citing the work of two of history’s great economists, Max Weber and Joseph Schumpeter, who came to conclusions such as...

*“… democracy in its clearest form can occur only under capitalist industrialization, and that it had its greatest opportunity in a society which emphasizes individual responsibility … modern democracy is a product of the capitalist process, and the two were mutually supportive parts of a rising modern civilization.”*

Dr. Manuel Cereijo argues himself that…

*“Capitalism is the only system in which freedom and liberty can exist. … The fact that an individual cannot start his own company is a violation of his freedom. In a free society all men may act as they choose as so long as they do not infringe on the freedom of others.”*

The impact of this is clear: without capitalism, and as a result, income disparity, democratic ideals could not exist. Instead, we would have socialism, a system in which democratic ideals such as freedom and liberty, as well as individual and property rights, aren’t recognized and protected.

**CONTENTION 2: Current Income Disparity Has Not Threatened Democratic Ideals**

Our second and final main argument is quite simply this: current income disparity has not threatened democratic ideals. We will prove this by using our remaining time to list several key democratic ideals and explain why each of them are very much alive and well in America today.

First, while income disparity does exist and our country is recovering from one of the worst economic recessions in history, the standard of living of U.S. citizens is still very high. In fact, according to the U.N. Human Development Index, the United States currently ranks 4th of all countries in the world. We must understand that income disparity does not equal abject poverty- the average person in the U.S. is very well off, able to afford housing, a car, and luxuries such as televisions, computers, cell phones, etc. From this we have to deduce that the ideal of equality of opportunity is very much alive and well.

Second, another key democratic ideal, access to quality education, is very much intact. Our government spends billions in tax dollars every year to provide free K-12 grade school education to our nation’s children, as well as additional billions subsidizing higher learning. According to College Board, young adults in this country can purchase an entire year’s worth of education at a community college for just over $2,000. The government also subsidizes world class learning institutions, such as the University of California system its campuses like UC Berkeley & UCLA, which are competitive to private and ivy league universities. Again, this not only shows that access to quality education is available, but also further substantiates the fact that equality of opportunity exists for those willing to simply open a book and educate themselves.

Third, the idea of equal representation and one person one vote is intact. Judge, despite the fact that there is most likely a substantial income disparity between yourself and Bill Gates, both of you will still have one vote in the next Presidential Election.

Fourth and finally, a number of government programs, interest groups, and organizations exist to protect virtually all of our democratic ideals. Programs such as low-income housing, unemployment benefits, food stamps, etc. protect equality of opportunity by combating poverty. Our court system, the provision of public defendants, and groups like the ACLU ensure equal justice and the protection of individual rights. The list goes on.

For all these reasons, please vote negative.