

Intelligence Squared Surveillance Debate

Your Name: _____

Download the unedited version of the radio broadcast from <http://intelligencesquaredus.org/debates/upcoming-debates/item/1190-mass-collection-of-u-s-phone-records-violates-the-fourth-amendment>. Flow the debate and submit your flows along with this worksheet.

Constructive Speeches

1. Abdo attempts to frame the debate around a nexus question. What is the question he thinks the debate is fundamentally about?
2. Abdo previews three arguments that he expects the negative to make. What are they?
3. Baker argues that the legal question has already been decided in favor of the negative. Why?
4. Baker forwards the argument that mass collection of phone records is necessary to combat terrorism. He argues that targeted surveillance could not be as effective. Why?
5. Wydra describes the origins of the Fourth Amendment. Why does she argue that this historical analysis supports the affirmative's position?
6. Wydra describes a recent Supreme Court decision written by John Roberts that highlights the importance of cell phone privacy. What is the name of this case? Briefly describe it. (This will require external research.)
7. Yoo makes an appeal to his personal experience working for the government to explain why surveillance is conducted. What is his argument?
8. Yoo compares the affirmative team to Robert Bork. Who is Bork and what is Yoo's argument?
9. What was the best connection moment in the constructive speeches? Why did this moment leave the biggest impression on you?

Cross-Examination/Q&A

10. What was the best question asked by an audience member? Why?
11. If you had the opportunity to ask a question during the audience question-and-answer period, what question would you have asked? Why?
12. Which debater performed best in the cross-examination? What separated him/her from the other debaters?

Rebuttals

13. Wydra alleges that the negative has failed to prove that surveillance is vital to effective counterterrorism. Was this argument persuasive? Why or why not?

14. Baker appeals to his experience before and after 9/11 to explain why his position on this issue has evolved. Was this argument persuasive? Why or why not?

15. Abdo analyzes the cost of data storage over time to argue that the government will be increasingly capable of storing complete records of digital information. Was this argument persuasive? Why or why not?

16. Yoo contends that the Constitution is not a suicide pact and that it is reasonable to trust the legislature to determine surveillance standards. Was this argument persuasive? Why or why not?

Reason For Decision

17. Render a decision and write a ballot supporting that decision. The reason for decision should begin with a thesis statement which is then supported by at least one paragraph identifying and resolving the nexus issue(s) of the debate. Once the decision has been developed and explained, the ballot should describe in at least one paragraph the best opposing ballot and explain why it was not selected.

18. Rank the four debaters from best to worst based on their performance in the debate. These rankings should be justified with one paragraph explaining why the best speaker was selected and one paragraph explaining why the worst speaker was selected. These explanations should be comparative and should include factors involving both content and delivery.