



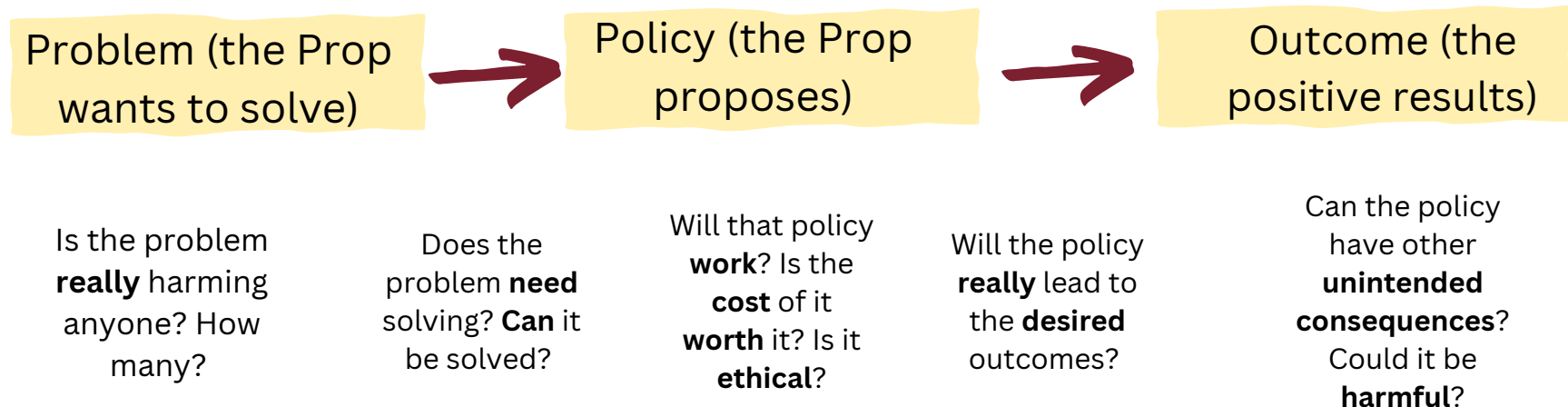
# Approaches to rebuttal



When preparing to be in the Opposition team (the "negative" side, as it's also called) or when you are in a debate and need to respond to an argument put forward by the Proposition, it is useful to have a framework to organise your thoughts.

Especially for policy debates (usually where the motion says "This House Would [do something/ban something/abolish something/legalise something, etc.] the burden of proof is on the Proposition to demonstrate their case.

The proposition in a policy debate usually presents their case with the following process, and below you can see the corresponding critical questions to ask :





# PETAL framework



This approach helps you to identify the weaknesses in the Proposition's argument:

**P**ractical - is the policy practical?

**E**thical - is the policy ethical?

**T**ried before? – has the policy been tried before or elsewhere?

**A**lternatives – are there any alternatives?

**L**ogical consistency – are there contradictions or fallacies in the reasoning?

# Fill in your thoughts on a Proposition motion

Motion:

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**P** Why it's not practical

**E** Why it's not ethical

**T** If tried before, is it comparable?

**A** Is there better, more cost-effective alternative?

**L** Potential logical inconsistencies, fallacies, etc.