

SPEAKERS' GUIDELINES: PROPOSITION 1 - 1

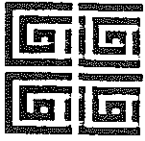
Proposition 1: New Colonies

New colonies in the various seas near to or far away from Hellas should be encouraged so that we can benefit from their raw materials and as places to sell finished goods.

(These pro and con suggestions are only an outline. Research further for more ideas and details.)

Arguments for the proposition:

- How is our polis to maintain its supremacy in the Aegean and elsewhere if we don't keep expanding and growing commercially? To stagnate economically is to die.
- Our enemies know only our might. A powerful navy and commercial empire are clear signals to our rivals that this polis has no intention of standing still. Gaining colonies throughout the Aegean, Ionian, Adriatic, and other seas is a must.
- A widespread and flourishing trade aids everyone in the city-states: farmers, merchants, aristocrats, and slaves. It brings profit, secures allies, and brings in new and exotic goods that keep our polis vibrant and forward-thinking.
- Colonization provides outlets for surplus goods as well as surplus population and adventuresome spirits. It establishes foreign markets for domestic products—which can only bind the colonies to the motherland.
- Some colonies can become as great as the metropolises they sprang from (i.e., Syracuse, Messana, Antipolis, Neapolis—in Spain, Sicily, France, and Africa).
- Colonization is a way to spread Greek culture, language, religion, and democracy. They, in effect, carry their Greek roots everywhere they are.



SPEAKERS' GUIDELINES: PROPOSITION 1 - 2

Arguments against the proposition:

- Colonization is an expensive luxury. To spend extravagant amounts of money and energy to extend Greek egos and conceit all over the known world is wrong, especially when so many more important issues need attention.
- Trade with far-flung colonies will bring in products we don't need and foreign ideas that will only corrupt pure Hellenic values.
- When colonization occurs, the Greeks who sail there lose touch with the motherland which bred them. It waters down Greek culture.
- The loyalty of these exported Greeks becomes suspect. If the major city-states are attacked by barbarian empires like Persia, will the people of these new colonies support and fight for the original metropolis? Probably not.
- Very often, Greek colonists, being an aggressive and dominant people, try to enslave the native population. They often intermarry with the native women, thus diluting the superior Greek blood of their home in Hellas. Colonists also enforce their civilization and customs on the native population. This is ironic since individualism and personal freedom is so precious to most Greeks.

