

DEBATE GUIDE: SOCIAL HOST ACCOUNTABILITY

In order to effectively advocate for a policy, it is important to be able to clearly communicate why you support it and the reasons that others should as well. It is equally important, however, to understand the concerns and opposing viewpoints that others may have about the issue. Use the table below to serve as a guide to begin thinking about some of the values and ideas that play a role in the debate about tobacco retailer licensing and to start to craft the flow of your own argument.

Supporters	Opponents
<p><i>Defining the Issue:</i> <i>Is there a problem? Does action need to be taken?</i></p>	
<p>Supporters will need to prove that the proposed policy is necessary by showing that there is a problem that needs to be addressed.</p> <p>You may want to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statistics on underage drinking and its effects - Data related to the provision of alcohol to youth by adults 	<p>Opponents will argue that this policy is not necessary by denying the presence of a problem in our community or disproving evidence of it.</p> <p>You may want to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If national or state data should apply to our community - How much of the alcohol that youth consume is freely provided by adults
<p><i>Evaluating the Solution:</i> <i>Will the proposed action effectively address the problem?</i></p>	
<p>Supporters will advocate for social host regulations by showing that it will effectively help solve the problem at hand.</p> <p>You may want to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How the policy will decrease underage drinking - The message the policy will send to young people about how the 	<p>Opponents will argue against social host regulations by showing that it will not effectively solve the problem</p> <p>You may want to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why the policy will not decrease underage drinking - Why passing the policy will not impact community norms

community views underage drinking	
<p><i>Evaluating the Costs and Benefits:</i> <i>What impact would this solution have on the community as a whole?</i></p>	
<p>Supporters will argue that any associated costs are outweighed by the benefits and it will therefore benefit the community overall.</p> <p>You may want to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The legal responsibility adults have for youth in their home - Why adults should be held accountable - Why this policy is important for our community 	<p>Opponents will argue that passing this policy would negatively impact the community because it is unfair or will pose negative consequences or significant costs to the community.</p> <p>You may want to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How social host laws unfairly limit adult's rights in their own home - Why adults should not be held legally accountable - If the policy will encourage youth to drink without adult supervision