TEACHER ONLY · ANSWER KEY

The New Deal Playbook: Claim & Support Drills

Resolved: The New Deal helped end the Great Depression.

Pro: the New Deal helped end it

1. **C** Real GDP grew about 9 to 13 percent a year in 1934–36.
   Growth is measured by GDP. An election result or the number of NRA codes doesn't measure growth, and the unemployment figure is a different measure (and helps Con).
2. **A** The New Deal reduced unemployment more than the older numbers show.
   The evidence is about unemployment and how it is counted, so it supports a claim about unemployment.
3. **B** That number counts millions of paid WPA workers as unemployed; counting them as working, it was about 11%.
   It answers the evidence directly with a better measure and a source. Attacking the speaker or changing the subject isn't a rebuttal.
4. **B** Only a small share of Americans owned stock, so it says little about most people.
   Rauchway makes this exact point about Con writers using the Dow: GDP and jobs describe the whole economy better. A stock figure works only as one piece next to stronger evidence.
5. **B** Roosevelt cut spending in 1937 to balance the budget, and the economy dropped.
   Only the first links a government pullback to the timing of the 1937–38 drop.
6. **D** The New Deal helped end the Great Depression.
   A claim is what you are trying to prove. The others are facts you could use to prove something.

Con: the New Deal prolonged it

1. **B** Unemployment never fell below 14% in the 1930s on the standard count.
   High unemployment year after year shows the Depression wasn't over. The others are facts Pro would use.
2. **C** NRA rules kept wages too high, so businesses hired fewer workers.
   The evidence is about wages being held above market levels, which is Con's price-fixing play.
3. **B** Growth from a very deep hole is expected; output per person in 1937 was still below 1929, and then it crashed again.

It accepts the number but shows why it doesn't prove recovery, with evidence. The others dodge or make claims Con can't support.

4. **B** It is an estimate from an economic model, not something measured, so say "economists estimate."
   Counterfactuals (what would have happened) come from models. Presenting them as facts invites a challenge flag; presenting them as estimates is honest and still strong.
5. **A** Tax laws changed in 1932, 1934, 1935 and 1936, and economists say the uncertainty must have been enormous.
   Only the first connects New Deal actions to business uncertainty and investment.
6. **C** The New Deal prolonged the Great Depression.
   A claim is what you are trying to prove. The others are facts you could use to prove something.