How to Write a PHSSL Parliamentary Debate or Extemp Debate Resolution

1. **Before writing**
    - Consider a topic that has two sides that can be reasonably debated and isn't slanted to one side or another.
    - Try to avoid hot-button political issues where judges likely have entrenched opinions.
    - Make sure that you avoid jargon for clarity
    - Avoid truisms. Freedom is good. Slavery is bad. They're not worth debating.
    - Be concise. Remember that every word matters.
    - (For Parli) Consider in advance how debaters might frame This House within PHSSL rules.
    - Are you planning to write something specific and **concrete**, or are you looking for something more philosophical or **abstract**? Extemp debate resolutions are always concrete.
    - Think about the role of AI: Concrete resolutions tend to lend themselves to heavier use of AI for evidence. Abstract resolutions encourage more creativity in debate and less reliance on AI.
    - Think of topics that are unique and creative. The best rounds are usually based on topics outside mainstream discourse.
    - Remember: Logical argumentation and hard evidence are weighed equally in both events in the PHSSL rules.

    Example of a concrete parli resolution: This House believes the United States should implement a carbon tax.
    Example of a philosophical parli resolution: This House believes the pen is mightier than the sword.
    Example of an extemp debate resolution: Resolved: The United States should implement a carbon tax.

2. Every Parli resolution begins with **THIS HOUSE**, which will define where the debate will be framed.

3. **The Next Word (Parli)**
    - "Should" implies more of a Lincoln-Douglas-style resolution, where competitors are welcome to include a value and value criterion in their framing of debate.
    - "Believes" implies a Cross-X-style debate where the teams are welcome to include a "plan" to solve a problem in the real world.
    - "Will/Is/No keyword following" implies a Public Forum-style fact-based debate that looks generally looks at the status quo and its impacts, on balance.
    - "Regrets" implies that This House rejects something rather than embraces it. The Government needs to explain why it would be preferable if this had never occurred.

4. **Actor, Policy, Action (Concrete Parli Resolutions and Extemp Debate resolutions)**
    - While abstract resolutions are structurally wide open, if you're writing something concrete, you're going to want to look for an actor, a policy, and an action that can be debated
    - If you look at our concrete examples from earlier, the US is the actor, the carbon tax is the policy, and the action is to implement it.

Once you have all these covered, you've got a solid candidate to be chosen for use at the PHSSL State Tournament!