



Topic Analysis!

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Resolved: The United States federal government should enact a moratorium on hyperscale data center construction.

This is the Sept/Oct 2026 topic for Public Forum Debate Tournaments, and our topic for the Cooper Debate Team application, due September 16.

What Does This Topic Even Mean?



- A **moratorium** is supposed to be a temporary pause.
- A **hyperscale data center** is a huge building or campus filled with thousands of computers.

What Does Each Side See and Want?

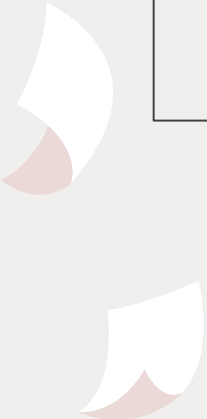
Affirmative

- Data centers can raise electric bills.
- They use too much water and energy.
- They create pollution and grid problems.
- Communities need protection from Big Tech.
- A pause could prevent wasteful overbuilding.



Negative

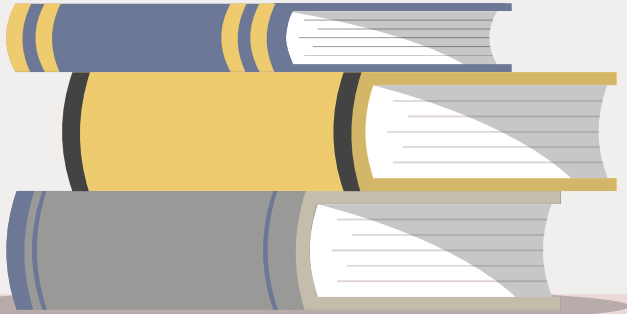
- They can help finance clean energy and grid upgrades.
- Slowing AI could cost the U.S. its lead over China.
- Projects may move overseas, leaving the U.S. with less control.
- A pause could hurt investment, research, and economic growth.



The strongest argument against a pause is:

Economy (pause would cost US money), Job Creation, and Targeted Regulation.

What DO I Run?



The strongest argument for a pause is:

Higher elec bills, water, and prevents overbuilding.



This is not **AI versus no AI**. It is should we stop construction while making stronger protections, or continue building while using narrower rules to control the harm.



RUN DOWN



Data centers create **real concerns about electricity, water, pollution, and costs**, but they also support AI, scientific research, jobs, and economic growth.





Thanks Everyone!

Any Questions?

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