Opening Remarks – By William Allen

Good evening and thank you for coming tonight. I'm <*insert name*>, <*insert title*> of Toward A Fair Michigan, more easily known by its acronym - TAFM.

TAFM is an independent, non-profit, charitable education activity dedicated to furthering understanding of the equal opportunity issues involved in guaranteeing civil rights for all citizens, and to promoting a civil, fair, and open exchange of views on the question of affirmative action preferences.

In November 2006, Michiganians will have the opportunity to vote on a ballot initiative that would prohibit the state from discriminating or granting preferential treatment based on race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin.

By the time that vote comes, nothing is more important than that the citizens of Michigan have a fair opportunity to consider every side of the issue so they can decide for themselves what is right and wrong, just and unjust, and determine what is the right thing to do in this case.

By providing a series of public forums in which the citizens of Michigan may join experts to discuss the effects of, the alternatives to, the justifications for, and the ill consequences of affirmative action preferences, Toward A Fair Michigan aims to facilitate an open deliberation that will produce the best public decisions.

This particular debate "Should A Free Society Allow Affirmative Action Preferences?" is sponsored by the College Republicans of Northwood University. I want to give special thanks and acknowledgement to Mr. Sean Boudreau, the president of the College Republicans, for his excellent work in assisting with planning for this debate.

The moderator for tonight's debate is Professor Glenn Moots who teaches philosophy and economics at Northwood and also contributes regularly to Northwood's Freedom Seminars. He has been honored by the Teaching Excellence Award given by the Northwood senior class and is an honorary member of Delta My Delta. He will introduce the speakers for the evening, and review the format of the debate. Professor Moots…

For Glenn's use: (please use or adapt)

Introduction:

A few words about tonight's format:
The speakers will begin with introductory remarks of up to 15 minutes each, followed by five-minute rebuttals. After that, the speakers will address questions collected from the audience.

So … please write your questions on the index cards that were provided to you as you came in tonight. We will have people walking the aisles and collecting them throughout the presentation. Also, you will note that you have an evaluation form – please complete it before you leave this evening to give your feedback on the debate.

Then introduce speakers First speaker is Carl Cohen; then Tom Weisskopf.

Pre-Rebuttal Remarks

If you have specific questions that you would like the speakers to address, please write them on the index cards that have been furnished so that we can collect them quickly at the conclusion of rebuttals. We will begin five minute rebuttals now with Professor Weisskopf.

After the Rebuttals:
Thank You! If the volunteers would collect questions now and bring them forward, we can get the question and answer session underway. Please help them out by raising your hand as they go by.

Question Session:

As a reminder, each speaker is limited to a two-minute response to each question, so that we may address as many of the questions from the audience as possible.

> **Ask questions per agreed upon rotation (allow flexibility to direct questions to appropriate speakers if necessary but insure fairness and balance in rotation). Be mindful of response length and redundant answers.**

Closing

Thank you for participating this evening; we invite you to join us for light refreshments*).* Please give your evaluation form to a volunteer or drop it into one of the baskets on the table on your way out.