



## Debating SA Incorporated

PO Box 10404 Gouger Street, Adelaide Business Centre SA 5000

P: 0406 982 012 | F: 8219 0070 | E: enquiries@debatingsa.com.au | W: www.debatingsa.com.au

---

### Sample Quodlibetical Topic

Warren Fiddle is the personal assistant to the president of a large pharmaceuticals company. The company employs approximately 500 people, but has fallen on hard times lately, with a number of key contracts failing to come to fruition. This has resulted in a depressed share price, and great number of angry shareholders.

The company has been working to turn this situation around, and is close to signing a multi-million dollar contract which will almost certainly guarantee a significant recovery from its recent difficulties.

Recently, Warren has become somewhat angry. The president has been asking a lot of him lately, with many unusually early starts, late finishes and errands to run. One night, working late, he finds himself talking to a fellow employee, Jim. Jim also is not happy with how he has been treated lately, and reveals to Warren that he intends to somehow get back at the company. During their conversation, both men become increasingly aware of their feelings of anger towards the company. In the heat of the moment, Warren reveals to Jim that he knows the access code to the president's personal computer. They both go into the president's office and, using the code, access the files on the PC. Jim, being part of the company's information technology department, operates the computer as Warren looks on. Jim randomly selects what appear to be some important files, saves them onto a floppy disk ("Just in case," he says), and then deletes them from the hard drive.

The following day, the president discovers that the files have been deleted. It turns out that Jim erased all the information pertaining to the imminent multi-million dollar contract. Having been under much stress lately, the president has not backed-up the files on his computer for some time. He was the only person with copies of the files, and so now, with the loss of this information, the contract seems unlikely to proceed.

When the news is communicated to staff at an emergency meeting, Warren is plagued by feelings of guilt. He feels that he should quickly reveal his knowledge of the whereabouts of the files, as he is desperately unsure as to whether Jim might destroy the disk on which the files are saved. However Warren simply cannot afford to be sacked – as he surely would be when it came to light that he had disclosed the access code to the computer. Despite earning a good wage, Warren's wife is in hospital with cancer, he has four children, and, unknown to anyone, he also has a series of large gambling debts. Unemployment would spell financial disaster for Warren – he would surely become quickly bankrupt.

#### ***Tonight's topic:***

"That Warren should spill the beans."