

## Debate Vocabulary

1. **advantages** The fourth observation of the traditional debate case that provides solvency to the affirmative case.
2. **affirmative** The side of the academic debate that defends, argues for, and promotes the resolution.
3. **agency** The part of the policy debate affirmative plan that is the instrument used to administer the plan.
4. **argument** Reasoning used in debate based on evidence or proof.
5. **block** *Process of preparing evidence in advance for a debate.*
6. **brink** The second part of a structured disadvantage argument which predicts when the impact of the disadvantage will occur.
7. **burden of proof** The responsibility of the affirmative, burden of proof is the case given to convince the judge that change to the status quo should take place.
8. **citation** The act or process of crediting another's ideas. Usually includes author, title of work, name of publication, and date.
9. **classify** *To arrange evidence in an order which will allow the debater to retrieve easily.*
10. **comparative advantage case** *different from the tradition style affirmative case, this case is structured to compare advantages to their harms. The affirmative need not prove all harms; instead, they need to prove a link to any one of their advantages.*
11. **constructive speech** Taking place at the beginning of the debate round, one of two -minute speeches given by each side of the debate to introduce the arguments the debate will focus.
12. **contentions** Statement used as a heading for an opinion in the debate.
13. **counterplan** *A negative strategy where the negative in the NC attempts to show an alternative plan that will solve the affirmative harms better than the affirmative case itself. The counterplan must be non-topical.*
14. **cross-examination** Three-minute time allowed in a debate for one side of the round to ask questions of the other side. Following each constructive speech in the policy round, the opposing team asks questions, and the team that just gave the speech, answers.
15. **debate** A process of inquire and advocacy seeking reasoned judgment on a proposition. Debate allows for two or more sides advocating their positions on a given issue under some set of rules with some kind of judgment to follow from a judge or audience (Basic Debate Terminology by Steve Hunt, Lewis & Clark, ).
16. **definitions** The first observation of the traditional debate case that defines necessary terms of the resolution and any other pertinent terms the affirmative deems necessary. ,
17. **disadvantage** A strategy by the negative team showing unfavorable consequences of the affirmative plan. A disadvantage can be a voting issue in a policy debate round, for the negative may prove the disadvantage from the affirmative plan may be too great of a risk compared to the advantages.

18. **drop** When a team fails to or chooses to discard an argument from the debate round. The negative team generally is the side which can allow for the dropping of arguments for they preside with presumption. The affirmative side can drop insignificant issues, but must be careful not to drop any of the voting issues.
19. **enforcement** The part of the policy debate affirmative plan that explains who will carry out the functioning of the proposed mandate.
20. **fiat** The right of the affirmative to enact a plan without worrying about the possibility of it not being enacted because of today's political environment. The affirmative can claim an Amendment to the Constitution will be adopted regardless of how difficult it would be to do today. This power is granted so debaters will stick with the issues.
21. **flowsheet** The system of note-taking used by debaters and judges to make sure all arguments "flow" together.
22. **funding** The part of the policy debate affirmative plan that is the means of paying for the plan.
23. **harms** The second observation of a traditional debate case that shows the problems existent in the status quo.
24. **impact** ( ) the final part of a structured disadvantage argument which shows the harm or disadvantage of the proposed affirmative plan. Impacts are used to conclude a negative's disadvantage (showing how the disadvantage to the plan impacts the world). ( ) the harm caused by an agent in the status quo. Impacts are used to conclude the affirmative's harms (showing how the harm impacts the world).
25. **inherency** One of the stock issues, inherency is the claim that the problems with the status quo will not go away without the proposed plan. The affirmative will claim that the harms in their case will stay and get worse without adopting their plan.
26. **link** The first part of a structured disadvantage argument which "links" the disadvantage's claim to the specific area of the affirmative case.
27. **mandates** The part of the policy debate affirmative plan that is the actual policy to be adopted.
28. **negative** The side of the academic debate that attacks and argues against the affirmative side of the resolution.
29. **non-topical** Any argument or policy case which fails to remain within the boundaries of the resolution.
30. **observations** Contentions given in the affirmative constructive case. Generally, the four observations given are Definitions, Harms, Plan, and Advantages.
31. **on-case arguments** Arguments in a policy debate which attack the specifics of the affirmative case. "On case" includes topicality, significance, inherency, and solvency. "Off case" would be disadvantages.
32. **plan** The third observation of the traditional debate case that provides the strategy for solving the harms. All plans need to include agency, funding, mandates, and enforcement.
33. **policy** The type of debate that encompasses a proposition of political worth.
34. **presumption** The advantage of the negative, presumption assumes the status quo should be kept unless the burden of proof shows reason for change. ,
35. **prima facie** An affirmative case that has covered the stock issues and is one a judge believes to have resolved the resolution.

36. **reasoning** The process by which we come to logical conclusions.
37. **rebuttal speech** Taking place at the end of the debate round, one of two -minute speeches given by each side of the debate to answer the arguments initiated in the constructive speeches. It is important to note that no new arguments can be brought up in the rebuttals, but only new evidence on existing arguments.
38. **resolution** The proposition adopted by the home school debate league in which all debaters will debate in league tournaments.
39. **significance** One of the stock issues, significance is the claim that the problems with the status quo are worthy for the change called by the resolution.
40. **solvency** One of the stock issues, solvency is the claim that the problems will go away (or be "solved") if the affirmative plan is adopted.
41. **status quo** The term used to represent the present state of affairs, the way things are now.
42. **structural barrier** *An inherent problem in the policies of the status quo that prevents harms from occurring.*
43. **stock issues** The issues the affirmative needs to prove to make and sustain a prima facie case. Four stock issues are significance, inherency, solvency, and topicality.
44. **tag** The use of a word or phrase at the top of a piece of evidence to serve as a quick reference.
45. **topicality** A stock issue introduced by the NC that questions whether the AC's case remained within the definitional borders of the resolution. A typical topicality argument will follow the structure of specificity, standard, violation, and impact.
46. **traditional case** The most commonly used policy debate case format.
47. **turn** The attempt of one team to use the argument of their opponent to their advantage.
48. **voting issues** Used synonymously with stock issues, these are the issues a judge typically "votes" on: significance, inherency, solvency, and topicality.