

Debate Definitions

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Abstract - A summary of a journal article or the volume containing an index with summaries.

Accrue- To gain or achieve.

Advantages- Benefits from adopting the resolution.

Attitudinal Inherency- Attitudes within the status quo preventing attainment of advantages within the present system.

Burden of Proof- The affirmative's responsibility to prove a need for adoption of the resolution.

Circumvent- to get around or avoid.

Clash - To provide direct opposition or argument. This is the negative burden in debate.

Constructive Speech - The first speech given by a debater in a round. The constructive speech is eight minutes in policy debate and is designed to build the case to either adopt the affirmative plan or to maintain the Status Quo.

Disadvantage - A harm resulting from the adoption of the affirmative plan.

Evidence – Quotations from authoritative sources that are used along with reasoning as proof in debate.

Fiat- The affirmative right to state that the affirmative plan will come into existence for the purposes of debating its workability and potential disadvantages.

Forensic – The study or examination of something or a subject.

Harms - Needs or contentions presented by the affirmative team as rationale for change. The bad effects of the problem in the Status Quo.

Inherency –The barrier that keeps the status quo from achieving the affirmative case rationale.

Justification – The rationale behind the action prescribed in the plan.

Plan – What the affirmative proposal will do to solve or address the problem stated in the resolution.

Prima Facie – At first glance, the affirmative case is complete, covers all the stock issues, has a workable plan, and is a reasonable solution to the problem.

Proof – The combination of evidence and reasoning to support an argument. This is the affirmative burden in debate.

Qualitative Significance - Significance which is not necessarily measurable, but which will improve the quality of a system.

Quantitative Significance – A measurable, numerical form of significance.

Rebuttal Speeches - The second speech given by each debater in a round. The rebuttals are five-minute speeches designed to refute arguments made by the opposing team.

Reasoning – The logical analysis of an argument or piece of evidence.

Refutation- Evidence and argumentation that deny the validity of the opponents' position.

Rejoinder – The negative burden of clash in debate. The term means to refute or rebuff an argument.

Resolution – A statement of fact, value, or policy that will be debated. Also known as the topic of debate. Policy resolutions are used in policy debate, value resolutions are used in Lincoln-Douglas debate, and factual resolutions are typically used in Public Forum debate.

Significance - The importance or scope of an issue.

Solvency - The ability of the affirmative plan to solve the needs (harms) or gain the advantages.

Status Quo - The present system of programs, laws, and policies.

Structural Inherency – The law, rule, or regulation in the Status Quo that must be changed, abolished, or adopted in order for the affirmative plan to go into effect.

Topicality - The concept that the affirmative case and plan must deal with the subject for debate and prove why the topic should be adopted.

Workability- The ability of the affirmative plan to function.