

# Debate Rap Sheet

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## It's Cool to Know the Lingo

1. **advantage.**  
the cool things that are going to happen because of your plan.
2. **affirmative.**  
the team that support the resolution.
3. **brief.**  
(no – we are not talking about underwear!)  
This is an outline of the arguments you are going to make in a debate. Also referred to as a “block.”
4. **case side.**  
(also “on case”) arguments that directly apply to advantages of the case. This means significance/harms, inherency, and solvency.
5. **cite** (citation).  
where you get your evidence from
6. **clash.**  
to argue specifically against what the other team says
7. **constructive.**  
the first four speeches in a debate
8. **contentions.**  
a way to number the affirmative arguments. (e.g., Contention I, Contention II etc.)
9. **cross-examination.**  
(cross-ex) the questioning period following each of the first four speeches in a debate.
10. **disadvantage.**  
(disad or da) the bad thing that will happen if the affirmative plan is adopted.
11. **evidence.**  
(ev or card) quotations which support your arguments.
12. **flow.**  
to take notes of the debate as it progresses.
13. **flowsheet.**  
the paper you use to take notes during the debate.
14. **impact.**  
the bad or good things that happen as a result of the plan (or the counterplan, or the disadvantage).
15. **inherency.**  
the reason why someone is not doing something about your plan right this minute; the barrier in the status quo that prevents the present system from solving things without the help of the plan.
16. **link.**  
how the disadvantage is caused by the plan or how the advantage is caused by the plan.
17. **prep time.**  
time given to each team during the round to prepare speeches.
18. **prima-facie.**  
the affirmative case has everything in it that is expected to be there. The phrase literally means “on face.”
19. **rebuttal.**  
the last four speeches in a debate—arguments are to be explained and extended in these speeches. Oh, yeah, and you’re supposed to win the debate round during these speeches, too.
20. **resolution.**  
the big topic you are debating. It always starts with the word “Resolved:” and then includes a “should” statement advocating a general kind of action.
21. **scenario.**  
a picture of what would happen if your plan or disadvantage were to happen.
22. **significance.**  
how big this problem is (how significant).

23. **solvency.**  
can the plan work to fix the problem.
24. **spread.**  
to make a whole bunch of arguments very quickly during a debate.
25. **standards.**  
a set of rules which allows the judge to decide which argument is better (usually in topicality).
26. **status quo.**  
the way things are now.
27. **stock issues.**  
those issues that the affirmative team must include in plan (significance, harms, inherency, topicality, solvency).
28. **subpoints.**  
supporting points of your arguments.
29. **threshold.**  
how much would it take for something to happen (e.g., if I were to pinch you, how hard would I have to pinch you before you screamed).
30. **time frame.**  
the amount of time it would take for the impact to happen.
31. **topicality.**  
(sometimes called simply, "T") an argument about whether or not the plan meets the resolution.
32. **turn.**  
to make an opponent's argument an argument for you. (e.g., you solve problems your opponent says you will cause, or what your opponent says is good, is actually bad.)
33. **uniqueness.**  
the part of a disad which proves that the plan and ONLY the plan would cause bad things to happen.



#### Generic Abbreviations

##### For Sources

NYT--New York Times  
 WSJ--Wall Street Journal  
 USN--U.S. News & World Report  
 NW--Newsweek  
 WP--Washington Post  
 CR--Congressional Record  
 CQW--Congressional Quarterly  
     Weekly Reports  
 SN Rpt--Senate Report  
 ACLU--American Civil Liberties Union  
 H Rpt--House Report  
 CV LB RVW--Civil Liberties Review  
 AP--Associated Press  
 UPI--United Press International  
 SC Rpt--Supreme Court Reporter  
 L/N--Lexis/Nexis

##### For Government Agencies

HHS--Health and Human Services  
 SC--Supreme Court  
 GAO--General Accounting Office  
 DOJ--Department of Justice  
 EX BR--Executive Branch  
 BCJ--Bureau of Criminal Justice  
 DOE--Department of Education  
 INS--Immigration and Naturalization Service  
 CDC--Center for Disease Control  
 DOS--Department of State

##### For Flowsheets

SQ-Status Quo	impt- important	fed-federal
loc-local	eff-efficient	ad-adequate
prb-problem	rts-rights	MR-minor repair
adv-advantage	coord-coordination	w/o-without
w/in-within	XT-extra-topical	PMN-plan-meet-need
def-definition	ed-education	I-inherency
M-million	B-billion	circm-circumvention
hmfl-harmful	amndt-amendment	MX-mutual exclusivity
sig-significance	natl-national	st-state
govt-government	ineff-inefficient	inad-inadequate
soc-society/social	jst-justification	DA-disadvantage
\$-money/funding	w/-with	b/w-between
T-topicality	OB-observation	PMA-plan-meet-adv
cmpt-competitive	cp-counterplan	PO-plan objection
TH-thousand	H-hundred	Slvcy-solvency
triangle-change		

1AC-1st Affirmative Constructive

1AR-1st Affirmative Rebuttal(and so on...)

arrow to the right-leads to

arrow to the left-result of

arrow pointing up-increase

arrow pointing down-decrease

NOTE: These are just suggestions to familiarize you with the concept of abbreviations for flowsheets. You are encouraged to add your own!