

of the resolution. A negative team offering a conditional counterplan typically claims the right to abandon the counterplan at any time during the debate round. Conditional or hypothetical positions are consistent with the hypothesis testing paradigm but conditionality does not fit well within the policymaking or stock issues models.

constructive speeches Speeches in a debate in which new arguments can be made.

contention An argument label or heading.

controversy This was one of the first names given to public forum debate; this form of debate competition is now officially called *public forum debate*.

core value In Lincoln-Douglas debate, this is the central value advocated by the affirmative or negative case. Some judges believe that every good case must be constructed around a core value, while others see the core value as optional. Examples of core values are justice, safety, and democracy.

counterplan A negative counter-proposal in policy debate designed to show that the affirmative proposal should be rejected because of the potential to adopt a superior alternative.

critique Also called *kritik*. In the philosophical context, the *critique*, or *critical theory*, refers to the theorists associated with the Frankfurt School. The members of the Frankfurt School shared an association with the Institute of Social Research in Frankfurt, Germany. Each of these philosophers shared Karl Marx's theory of historical materialism. This theory holds that communism will inevitably replace capitalism as the economic system of choice. Policy and Lincoln-Douglas debaters sometimes use the term *critique* more broadly to describe any questioning of basic assumptions.

cross-apply Debaters sometimes answer an argument by saying that the judge should cross-apply an answer already given to an earlier argument. **cross-examination** This term is used in policy and Lincoln-Douglas debate to refer to the question/answer periods between constructive speeches.

crossfire This is the term used in public forum debate to refer to the questioning periods that occur at two points during the constructive speeches. After the first two constructive speeches, the first speakers from each team engage in a free-wheeling interactive period during which there is no preassigned questioner or respondent. The speakers engage one another in a lively exchange, much like on CNN's *Crossfire*—the news program from which this interaction period draws its name. After the second two constructive speeches, the second speakers from each team engage in another free-wheeling interactive period. Only in the “grand crossfire”—an interactive period after the first two rebuttals—are all four contestants allowed to engage in exchanges.

cut evidence The process of selecting evidence from a book or an article. In the pre-computer era, debaters would physically cut up a photocopy of a section, a book, or an article. Although most evidence is now collected digitally from online or scanned