

fiat In policy debate, *fiat* refers to the right of the affirmative team to assume that its plan would be adopted in the political structure specified by the plan. Most debate theorists believe that fiat power is created by the *should* term in a policy resolution. We are debating about what should be done, not what will be done. The affirmative team never need worry about whether its plan would be passed by Congress, whether it would be repealed by Congress, or whether the president would sign the bill after it had passed Congress.

field context standard for topicality The field context standard in policy debate argues that the best type of topicality evidence is that which comes from an expert in the professional field related to the resolution. If the resolution deals with economics, a professor of economics would provide the best field contextual evidence.

final focus This is the final speech in public forum debate. The speech is given by the second speaker for the pro and con sides. When public forum debate was first conceived, the final focus speech was limited to the making of a single argument. That requirement has since been relaxed, but the one-minute time limit forces the debater to make only a few arguments.

flow judge A judge who keeps a careful record of the arguments made in the debate. Many lay judges have had very little experience in judging and did not participate as contestants in high school or college debate. When a debater has a flow judge, he knows that line-by-line answers to arguments will likely be necessary. With a non-flow judge, debaters know they probably do not have to answer each and every argument of the opponent; it will probably be sufficient to offer the big picture.

flowsheet Each of the participants in the debate (including the judge) should keep a record of the arguments as they proceed; this record of arguments is called a *flowsheet*.

four-person debate This format for policy debate features two paired teams of two persons each where each team stays on the same side of the resolution. One team debates each round on the affirmative, and the other debates each round on the negative. The total record for the four-person team is the combined win-loss record for the four-person unit.

generic disadvantages This term in policy debate refers to negative disadvantages that apply to broad categories of affirmative plans rather than to specifically address a specific affirmative plan.

goal/criteria case This is one of the organizational schemes for structuring affirmative cases in policy debate. In the goal/criteria case, the affirmative starts by establishing a worthy goal or criteria for solving a problem. The affirmative shows that the present system fails to meet this goal or criteria but that the affirmative plan would best meet the goal or criteria.

grammatical context standard for topicality The grammatical context standard in policy debate argues that the best type of definitions are those that take into account the