

that the affirmative plan called for national health insurance, while the negative counterplan called for ending all federally sponsored health care, including Medicare and Medicaid. The negative team would argue that it would be logically impossible to combine the plan with the counterplan.

**NDT debate** The term *NDT* stands for National Debate Tournament. This is one of the forms of competitive debate at the intercollegiate level.

**negative** The negative in policy or Lincoln-Douglas debate opposes the resolution; it defends the status quo or a counterplan of its choice, attacking the plan offered by the affirmative.

**negative block** In policy debate, this refers to the back-to-back negative speeches (2NC and 1NR).

**net benefits standard for competition** This is a *should not* standard for counterplan competition in policy debate. The net benefits standard for counterplan competition means that the plan plus the counterplan are less desirable than the adoption of the counterplan alone.

**new argument** Debaters are not allowed to make new arguments in rebuttal speeches (called the Summary Speech and Final Focus in public forum debate). New evidence can be presented in rebuttal so long as it is used in support of an argument previously made in a constructive speech.

**object of evaluation** Every proposition of value contains one or more objects of evaluation. The object of evaluation is the concept or idea being evaluated in the resolution. In the topic “A just society ought not use the death penalty as a form of punishment,” the object of evaluation is “the death penalty.”

**observation** Another name for a contention. Debaters often label their argument as an observation if they believe that it is reasonably obvious—they simply want to establish a grounding for their argument.

**overview** An argument made at the top of the flowsheet before beginning the line-by-line responses to an opponent’s argument.

**paradigm** A paradigm is an interconnected web of assumptions. Debate theorists in policy debate use the term to apply to the assumptions made by the debate judge when approaching a debate. Some judges see a debate from a legal paradigm, where the status quo is innocent until proven guilty. Some judges see a debate from a policymaking paradigm, where the decision asks whether the affirmative policy is shown to be more advantageous than the negative policy. Some judges see a debate from the hypothesis testing paradigm, where the debate round is seen as an experiment in the social sciences designed to test the truth of a hypothesis.

**permutation** In policy debate, this is one of the terms used by affirmative teams in answering counterplans. The permutation is suggested by an affirmative team as an