

example of a way that the essence of the plan could be desirably combined with the essence of counterplan. The permutation is a test of competitiveness.

plan The affirmative team in policy debate must present a plan; contemporary debate practice requires that this plan be presented in the first affirmative constructive speech. The plan should typically provide answers to the following questions: (1) Who will administer the plan? (2) What will the plan do? (list the plan mandates) (3) How will the plan be funded? The affirmative team can also choose to specify certain other things such as the date of implementation, the phase-in period, and the means of enforcement.

plan spike This is a term used in policy debate. A plan spike is provision of an affirmative plan that is designed to preempt an expected disadvantage.

plan-meet-need argument This is another term for a solvency argument in policy debate. The negative team presents reasons the affirmative plan, even when adopted, will fail to resolve the harms cited by the affirmative team.

policymaker This paradigm for judging a policy debate sees debate as analogous to the legislative model in which decision-makers choose from competing policy options. The policymaker makes a decision in the debate by answering the simple question "Would the affirmative option be, on balance, more desirable than the option defended by the negative team?" This approach to judging a debate places strong expectations on the negative team to defend something rather than simply to attack the affirmative team. It also requires the negative positions to be internally consistent.

power-matched round A preliminary round paired in such a way that competitors meet an opponent with a similar record. A competitor who has a 3-0 record (three wins, no losses) will meet a 3-0 opponent. Similarly an 0-3 record (zero wins, three losses) will meet an 0-3 opponent.

preempts In policy debate, when debaters preempt an argument, they respond to arguments before the other team has made them. Sometimes affirmative teams make a series of preempts at the end of the first affirmative constructive speech.

preliminary rounds Debate tournaments are divided into preliminary rounds and elimination rounds. The tournament invitation establishes the number of rounds in which every contestant will compete. The number of preliminary rounds ranges from three to eight in interscholastic competition. After the preliminary rounds, the top contestants are determined by the number of wins (ties broken by speaker points). Top contestants then are seeded into elimination rounds where only the winners of each round advance.

prep time Current debate practice allocates a certain amount of preparation time to each team or contestant for the entire debate. The timer (often the judge) begins timing prep time as soon as the previous speaker has spoken or as soon as cross-examination is over. When the total preparation time for the round has expired, the next speaker must begin speaking immediately to avoid losing time allocated to the speech itself. Five