

minutes is the typical preparation time for policy debate, four minutes for Lincoln-Douglas debate, and two minutes for public forum debate.

presumption In policy debate, the negative team traditionally has *presumption*—meaning the negative team will win the round in the event of the judge’s perception that the round is tied. The notion of presumption originally comes from Bishop Richard Whately in his 1859 book *The Elements of Rhetoric*. Whately argued that there is presumption in favor of existing institutions.

prima facie case In policy debate, the term *prima facie* means “first face” or “at face value.” This means that the affirmative case must contain all the logical elements of harm, inherency, and solvency in the first affirmative speech. If, for example, the first affirmative speech contained eight minutes of history about the subject matter of the resolution, the first negative debater would have nothing to refute because there is not a complete argument on the floor. The negative team would win even if the affirmative team were granted every position taken. Some debate texts explain a *prima facie* case as one that contains proof “sufficient to convince a reasonable person in the absence of refutation.”

pro In public forum debate, the team assigned to defend the resolution is referred to as the *pro* team.

proposition of policy A statement that asserts that a course of action should be taken. Policy debate resolutions and many public forum resolutions are propositions of policy.

proposition of value A statement that asserts that one thing is more important or more valuable than another thing. Lincoln-Douglas debate resolutions are propositions of value.

rebuttal The closing speeches in a debate. New arguments are not allowed in rebuttal speeches; these speeches are for the purpose of sorting out the arguments made in the constructive speeches.

red herring This is a type of argumentative fallacy in which a debater proves something that is irrelevant to the question at hand in an attempt to draw attention away from the real issue.

reducing to absurdity Debaters sometimes seek to reduce the credibility of an opponent’s argument by showing that the argument becomes ridiculous when carried out to its logical extreme; this technique is referred to by its Latin name *reductio ad absurdum*.

resolution The sentence that states the topic to be debated. The debate topic is phrased as a resolution using a single declarative sentence. In policy and Lincoln-Douglas debate, the affirmative says “yes” to the resolution while the negative says “no.”

road map A debater’s road map is the brief explanation that precedes a constructive or rebuttal speech. Most judges expect that every debate speech other than the first affirmative constructive will include a road map. Modern flowing practices involve