

involved will never be replicated. Ever. Anywhere. You may sometimes feel as though you've sat through the debate a thousand times before, but, in reality, no two are the same. The dynamics between the teams, the individuals, and, most important, the ideas are subtly different in each instance and so the notes, which you can use for future debates, need to reflect this.

- *Stay focused on what the notes are for.* You are not an adjudicator. Don't try to record the debate in a calm, even-handed manner. If the other side builds an indestructible argument, note it for future reference but, since it's of very little use to you in your current debate, don't spend a lot of time detailing it. On the other hand, jotting down one of their terrible arguments and your possible responses is useful.
- *Abbreviate, abbreviate, abbr., a-.* Your notes are for you and, to a much lesser extent, your teammates who may glance at them from time to time to see what you're thinking. So, notes do not have to be whole sentences, whole words, or even words at all, as long as you and your teammates understand what is meant and can expand on them when speaking.

Here's a list of examples to give you ideas. Feel free to use different abbreviations for the words and concepts listed here—or to use these for something else entirely. They're your notes.

+ive: Positive

–ive: Negative

B: Benefit

Cit: citizens

Def: Definition

Dem: democracy/democratic

DisA: Disadvantage

Ex: Example

Fut: future

I?: What is the impact?

Indiv: individual

L?: Missing link within the argument's structure

Mo: Model