

Claim—Idea, concept, or value that a debater wants an audience to accept as being true; usually the culmination of an argument.

Clash—Point of conflict between Affirmative and Negative arguments.

Constructive (substantive) arguments—Main developed points put forward by a debater in support of her case—as distinct from rebuttal.

Critical thinking—Disposition to reflect on the world and on beliefs and to apply reason to their examination. Critical thinking demands logical consistency and objectivity.

Cross-examination (Cross-X, CX)—Direct questioning of one debater by another from the opposing team.

Definition—Process of setting out Affirmative’s interpretation of the motion or resolution. The definition is then the focus of the debate.

Evidence—Facts, theories, presumptions, or values that debaters use to support their arguments. It is the first stage of an argument and should be information that the audience holds to be true.

Extension—Introduction of a major new platform of argument by the Closing Government team in British Parliamentary debate. An extension is not a new case but a new way to prove the same case.

Flow—A technical form of note-taking that allows debaters to keep track of the arguments presented by both teams in a debate.

Interaction (hard)—Stage at which debaters speak directly to each other, offering questions, making short points for contrast, or demanding clarification or explanation. See *Points of Information* and *cross-examination*.

Interaction (soft)—Stage at which speakers refer to each other’s ideas and adjust their own in response. See *Clash*.

Introduction—Opening part of a speech.

Judge—See *Adjudicator*.

Knifing—In British Parliamentary debate, a slang term used to describe an attempt by the third Government speaker to abandon the definition introduced by the first Government speaker.

Manner—Style (delivery) and structure (organization) speaker uses to present her ideas and persuade an audience.