

Matter—Content of the speech; arguments a debater uses to present his case and persuade the audience.

Motion—Standardized statement over which two sides in a debate will disagree; sometimes called a “topic” or “resolution.”

Negative—Side of a debate with responsibility for proving that a motion or resolution is untrue. Sometimes called “Opposition.”

Point of Information—Short question or statement made by a debater during an opposing speech. Points of Information are taken at the discretion of the debater holding the floor.

Position(s)—Speaker’s place and title in the debate.

Preparation (Prep)—Time set aside for researching, planning, and drafting of a case and speech. In most formats, takes place before the debate but in some, including Karl Popper, time is also set aside for prep during the debate. Prep can be as little as 15 minutes (short prep) or as long as a month (long prep).

Rebuttal—Various methods of criticizing or attacking the arguments put forward by the other side.

Reply speech—Given at the end of the debate, sometimes by a speaker who has already spoken. These speeches clarify the main themes of the debate and suggest a standard by which the adjudicator should determine victory.

Resolution—See *Motion*.

Roadmapping—Setting out and identifying by name the arguments that will make up the speaker’s case.

Role—Technical functions required of a speaker in a given position.

Role fulfillment—Extent to which a speaker performs the requirements of her role.

Signposting—Identifying arguments during a speech, giving indications to the audience of what to expect as they listen.

Status quo—Situation under debate as it currently exists.

Strategy—In World Schools debate format, the structure, timing, and the speakers’ general appreciation of the subject.

Structure—Framework of a debater’s speech; usually used to mean the extent to which her arguments flow logically from one to the other.