

Breaking Down Barriers: Dictionary of Forensics

**Speech and Debate
Sample** of Version 3.2



**Written by
Jim Hanson**

**with the assistance of Dan Smith, Eric Chalfant, Mike Meredith,
Roberta Rice (3.0) and with Brian Simmonds, Brian Danielson, Glenn
Kuper, Katie Imbeau, Nicholas Thomas, Terrance Shuman (2.0)**

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Introductory Comments

The world of forensics is an exciting environment involving thousands of people across the United States (and the world for that matter) in speech, debate, interpretation, and more. It has its own practices, concepts, and even language. Competitors, coaches, and judges will hear phrases like:

- “That’s an intrinsic perm. You can’t do that!”
- “You need better bookwork on that Interp.”
- “That doesn’t filter through the criteria for this round.”

For the experienced participant or coach, these comments have meaning. For others, this jargon is a barrier to joining the excitement. It is like listening to someone speak in an unfamiliar language. It just does not make sense.

So what does a coach or student unfamiliar with all or even some of these terms do to make sense of this jargon?

In this new edition of *The Dictionary of Forensics*, you will find hundreds and hundreds of terms addressing the latest terminology. You will find definitions of terms for policy, parliamentary, and Lincoln-Douglas debate; for student congress; for speaking and interpretation events; as well as for rhetoric and argument theory. Each term is still given a clear definition, an example, how the term is used, synonyms, and links to other terms. In addition, some terms have now been given antonyms as well as citations for further research.

This dictionary offers an entry into the excitement of all of forensics through its complete treatment of terms and use of clear definitions and examples. It eliminates the mysteries of speech, interpretation, rhetoric, and debate jargon. Beginners will find it invaluable to overcome the entry barriers of forensics. Experienced participants will find it a great refresher as well as a source of “Oh. I didn’t know that.” Have *The Dictionary of Forensics* accessible and the unfamiliar language of forensics will begin to make sense.

If you cannot find a term or need further explanation of a term, please contact Jim Hanson at jim@wcdebate.com

Pre-A**8-3-5-5**

Definition: The time limits used in most high school policy debate rounds. 8 minute constructives, 3 minute cross-examinations, 5 minute rebuttals, and 5 minutes prep time.

See also: 9-3-6-10.

9-3-6-10

Definition: The time limits used in most college policy debate rounds. The time limits used in most college policy debate rounds. 9 minute constructives, 3 minute cross-examinations, 6 minute rebuttals, and 10 minutes prep time.

See also: 8-3-5-5.

1-9 PREFERENCES

Definition: A mutual preference judging system where you place each judge into nine categories of preference.

Example: If there are 90 judges, teams will rank 10 judges as "1's," 10 judges as "2's," etc. The tab room would try and assign judges that both teams ranked similarly, and usually highly.

Usage: "They used 1-9 preferences at the 2001 CEDA Nationals." (At the 2001 CEDA Nationals, they used a ranking system of 1 through 9 for the judges at the tournament.)

See also: Mutual preference judging, Ordinal preferences, ABCX.

A**A.P.D.A.**

Definition: The American Parliamentary Debate Association, a college debate organization promoting parliamentary debate.

Example: Most APDA schools are in the East and are student-directed programs.

Usage: "Our school will be attending APDA tournaments next year." (Our school will be attending tournaments using the American Parliamentary Debate Association format.)

See also: NPDA, Worlds.

"A TEAM" "B TEAM" ETC

Definition: Ranking system for debate teams on a squad with the "A" team being best, "B" team being next best, etc.

Example: If you were the B team you would be the second best team on your squad.

Usage: So I heard that you hit their A team. How did you do?

ABCX

Definition: A mutual preference judging system where you place each judge into four categories of preference: A, B, C or X (strike). Typically, two teams will get a judge they rated an A or a B and the ABCX system will try to get the two teams a judge they both rated the same (an A preferably, possibly a B).

Example: At the University of Southern California, they have used the A-B-C-X system for judge preferencing.

Usage: "Is this tournament A-B-C-X?" (Is this tournament using a four-category mutual preference system?) Did we give him a 'C'? (Did we mark that judge in the third of four preference categories?)

Synonym: A-B-C-Strike.

See also: mutual preference judging, ordinal preferences, 1-9 preferences.

ABSENTION

Definition: The act of remaining neutral when a vote is taken. Abstentions are only counted for Majority Votes; votes taken where a fraction of members are needed are based on those seated in the chamber at the beginning of the session so counting Abstentions is unnecessary. Abstentions DO NOT count as Negative votes.

Example: "Will all those who abstain, please rise."

Usage: In a legislative vote, four people are for the legislation, 3 people are against and 2 people abstain (do not take sides).

ABSOLUTE

Definition: Completely; totally; 100 percent.

Example: Not one country is sold repressive weapons.

Usage: "That's an absolute argument." (The argument completely proves a point or beats the opponent's case.)

See also: Absolute Solvency.

ABSOLUTE SOLVENCY

Definition: The plan completely solves or completely does not solve a problem.

Example: "Their plan will not help one single person" is an *absolute solvency* argument. "Our plan will completely solve the toxic dumping problem" is an argument that shows *absolute solvency*.

Usage: "I ran an absolute solvency argument." (I argued that their plan would not gain any advantage.) "We gain an absolute advantage." (We totally solve the problem.)

See also: Absolute.

BSURDIST

Definition: A particular genre of interpretation literature and/or performance that includes far-fetched, if not impossible, situations, events, and characters, often in humorous situations.

Example: The use of talking animals as the Board of Directors. *Waiting for Godot*.

Usage: "I appreciate your willingness to take a risk, but talking out of your belly button is a bit too absurdist for my taste."

ABUSE

Definition: Actions by one debate team in-round that are theoretically unfair to the other team.

Example: Many people believe that intrinsic perms are abusive because they are unpredictable.

Usage: "Their no-link to our disad is clear in-round abuse that wouldn't happen if they read a topical plan."

See also: Ground

ACA

Definition: Acronym for the American Communication Association, an organization devoted to promoting and developing communication programs and scholarship.

ACADEMIC DEBATE

Definition: A school activity where students engage in debate on two opposing sides.

The two students on each side try to persuade a judge or panel of judges to support their side of an issue.

Example: In *academic debate*, two teams compete against each other at tournaments. The tournaments typically are held at high schools and colleges. A mini-debate on the resolution, "RESOLVED: That the United States should ban alcohol," might look like this:

One side (the affirmative): Banning alcohol would help reduce alcoholism and drunken driving.

The other side (the negative): Banning alcohol would not reduce alcoholism or drunken driving because people would turn to illegal sellers of alcohol and then organized crime would grow.

See also: Argument (type 2), Audience debate, Debate, Debate formats, Public Debate.

ACT

Definition: An action; something that is done.

One of Burke's Pentadic Elements, he says it is that which causes something to take form.

Example: Walking, running, speaking, are acts because they are actions; they cause something to take form.

Usage: "The criticism focused on the act of speaking instead of the speaker herself."

Related terms: Agency, Agent, Purpose, Scene.
Citation: Kenneth Burke, *A Grammar of Motives* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press) p. 228.

ACTION

Definition: Movement or change directed by thought and purpose, as opposed to motion which involves no decision.

Example: When leaves fall from trees in the late summertime, this is motion, but when I climb a tree and shake leaves off of a limb, this is an action because I do so with thought and purpose.

Usage: "The speaker demanded that we take action against civic apathy."

Antonym: Motion.

Citation: Kenneth Burke, *Attitudes Toward History* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press).

ACTIVISM

Definition: Claiming that your advocacy of an argument is part of real world action; or advocating real world action by the judge, audience and the debaters on an argument you are presenting.

Example: If you run a feminism kritik, you may argue that you are engaging in activism for the cause of women's rights.

Usage: "Some debaters see activism as more important than winning the round." (Some debaters believe that what they are advocating is more important than winning the round.)

See also: Performance.

AD HOMINEM ATTACK

Definition: An argument attacking a person instead of that person's arguments.

Example: "John, our opponent, once again tries to make a good argument, but, as usual, fails".

Usage: "Team X made ad hominem." (Team X attacked their opponents and not their opponents' arguments.)

See also: Fallacy.

AD POPULUM

See: Bandwagon Fallacy.

ADD-ON

See: Add-on advantage.

ADD-ON ADVANTAGE

Definition: An advantage presented in the second affirmative or second negative constructives that shows a plan or counterplan will gain benefits in addition to those already presented.

Example: In the first affirmative speech, a debater might argue that her plan would decrease unemployment. The second affirmative speaker might present an *add-on advantage* by showing that the plan would also decrease inflation.

Usage: "I will present add-on advantages to our counterplan." (I, the second negative speaker, will show other benefits to the counterplan that my partner, presented.) "I have two add-ons for our plan." (I will present two new advantages, not mentioned in the first affirmative speech, to our plan.) "Each turn is an added advantage for the affirmative." (The disadvantages, which have been shown to actually favor the affirmative plan, should be considered additional advantages for the affirmative plan.)

Synonyms: Added advantage, Additive advantage, Add-on.

See also: Advantage.

ADAPTATION

Definition: An attempt to show the audience how a speech topic, or a particular argument, relates to their own lives and should be important to them.

Example: Since we all are either women, or are close to several in our friends and family, the problem of date rape should be important to us all.

Usage: "The fact that this can happen to any of us really makes for strong audience adaptation."

ADDED ADVANTAGE

See: Add-on Advantage.

ADDITIVE ADVANTAGE

See: Add-on Advantage.

AD IGNORANTUM

Definition: Fallacy in which something is assumed true purely on the basis that it has not been proven false.

Example: Since you cannot prove that extraterrestrials do not exist, they must exist.

See also: Fallacy, Proof, Reasoning.

ADJUSTMENT AND REPAIRS CASE

Definition: An affirmative case that is a minor repair.

See: Minor Repair.

ADMINISTRATOR OF DEBATE

Definition: The person who organizes and manages a debate team.

Usage: "He's the administrator." (He's the person who organizes and manages a debate team; may also mean he does not do much coaching.)

See also: Coach, Director of debate, Director of Forensics.

ADMINISTER

Definition: The act of running a program. An affirmative team will have their plan administered by a group of people.

Usage: "Our plan will be administered by a seven member board." (Our plan will be run by a seven member board.)

See also: Administration, Board.

ADMINISTRATION

Definition: The organized group of people in charge of a program or policy.

Example: The Clinton *administration* was in control of United States Policy.

Usage: "The current administration is not doing anything about this problem." (The group of people in charge aren't doing anything to solve the problem.)

See also: Administer, Agent of Action/Change, Board.

AD POPULUM

Definition: Persuasive appeals based upon the public popularity of an issue.

Example: U.S. Presidents will often speak with the American flag in the background because they think that it appeals to the patriotic fervor of some Americans.

Example: We should implement this policy because 72% of Americans support the policy.

Usage: "The critic said our argument merely engaged in ad populum appeal." (The judge said that our argument used reasons solely based on the popularity of our argument.)

See also: Bandwagon Fallacy, Fallacy.

ADVANTAGE

Definition: A benefit of a policy; A good consequence of a policy; A reason to take a course of action. An affirmative case advantage usually includes significance, inherency and solvency.

Example: An affirmative might argue that a plan to increase pollution control devices would gain this *advantage*:

I. Pollution control devices would save lives

A. (Significance) Pollution is killing many people.

B. (Inherency) Current pollution control is inadequate.

C. (Solvency) Pollution control would prevent deaths.

Usage: "We ran a human rights advantage." (We argued that our plan would reduce human rights abuses.) "We showed the disadvantage would actually be an advantage to our plan." (We showed that our plan would actually gain a benefit, an advantage--not a disadvantage as our opponents had argued.)

See also: Benefit, Disadvantage, Inherency, Plan, Significance, Solvency.

ADVANTAGE COUNTERPLAN

Definition: A counterplan that uses a completely different mechanism from the affirmative in an attempt to just solve one particular affirmative advantage rather than the entire case.

Example: If the affirmative ratified the Kyoto protocol and claimed that it solves both global warming and US credibility overseas, the negative could read an advantage counterplan that does something else that would increase US credibility but wouldn't solve global warming, like closing Guantanamo Bay.

Usage: "We read a uniqueness counterplan to solve their overfishing advantage and then impact turned their hegemony advantage."

See also: Advantage, Counterplan

AD VERECUNDIAM

Definition: Fallacy in which a bogus appeal to authority is made.

Example: Citing a professor of literature as an authority on foreign policy matters.

See also: Fallacy, Proof, Reasoning.

ADOPTION

Definition: Agreeing to accept a particular method of proceeding.

Example: This house will now adopt the rule that there need be no motions make for bathroom privileges.

Usage: The chamber may agree to adopt rules beyond Robert's Rules of Order which are peculiar to the tournament or to the state.

See Also – Robert's Rules of Order

ADJOURN

Definition: A motion that allows the chamber to take a permanent recess for a fixed length of time (often overnight). This motion must be seconded and requires a majority vote. Time to gather again should always be set prior to adjourning. All business (such as tabled legislation) must be taken care of prior to the chamber adjourning at the end of the tournament.

Example: "I move to adjourn."

Usage: The chamber must adjourn at the end of the session and set a time to reconvene for the second session.

ADVOCACY (1)

Definition: The position in a debate round that a team supports (typically, a plan of action).

Example: Your plan is one example of your advocacy in a debate round.

Usage: "Our advocacy today will be for the adoption of the CTBT by the United States."

See also: Plan.

ADVOCACY (2)

Definition: Active support for something; speaking on behalf of something.

Example: If you feel strongly about the environment and speak out about it, you could be said to be an advocate for environmentalism.

Usage: "Our opponents claimed that defending state action was not part of their advocacy."

Antonym: Opposition.

ADVOCATE

Definition: (Noun) A person who tries to persuade others to agree with a position.
(Verb) To try to persuade others to agree with a position.

Example: Debaters are *advocates* (noun) because they try to persuade their judges. Debaters *advocate* (verb) new policies and values when they try to persuade their judges.

Usage: "We advocate a national health insurance program." (We support and urge you to also support national health insurance.)

See also: Argue, Debate.

AESTHETIC PROOFS

Definition: Arguments demonstrated or proven by the beauty of their use of and relationship with other symbols: words, pictures, sounds, etc.

Example: Jesse Jackson's use of a patchwork quilt to describe the coming together of Democrats was an aesthetic proof because it relied on the beauty of that quilt to make its argument for community.

Synonym: Style.

See also: Data, Reason, Toulmin model of Argument.

Citation: Chapter 15: Argument in Drama and Literature: An Exploration, Walter R. Fisher and Richard A. Filloy, 1982, p. 347.

AFA

Definition: Acronym for the American Forensics Association, an organization devoted to promoting and developing speech and debate activities and scholarship.

AFF CHOICE

Definition: A theoretical argument that claims that the affirmative team always gets to choose the framework of the debate.

Example: Some teams may claim that the negative team can't read an alternative framework because of aff choice

Usage: "The negative has conceded aff choice, which means we get to choose the framework of the debate, whether it is normatively good for debate or not."

See also: Framework, Cheap Shot

AFF SIDE BIAS

Definition: The notion that the structure of debate makes it inherently easier to be affirmative than negative.

Example: The aff may have a side bias because they get to speak first and last, have infinite prep time, and get to choose a case that sets the foundation of the debate.

Usage: "The aff side bias justifies abusive counterplans because the negative is at a structural disadvantage."

See also: Neg Side Bias, Infinite Prep Time

AFFIRMATIVE

Definition: The side which supports the resolution in a debate.

Example: The *affirmative* would support the resolution, "RESOLVED: That the Parliamentary system is superior to the Executive system," by arguing for the parliamentary system over the executive system. The *affirmative* might support the resolution, "RESOLVED: That the United States should significantly change its Central American policy," by arguing for increased food aid in Central America.

Usage: "What's your affirmative?" (When you are debating on the affirmative what is your case?) "They're good on the affirmative." (When they support the resolution in debates, that team does very well.)

See also: Negative, Resolution, Government (parliamentary debate).

AFFIRMATIVE BURDEN

Definition: Something that the affirmative team must do by virtue of being affirmative and having to defend the resolution.

Example: Being topical is an affirmative burden because their arguments are necessarily restricted by the resolution. The negative doesn't need to be topical because they aren't bound to the resolution, which is why it is only an affirmative burden.

Usage: "The affirmative is not topical, which means they should lose because they haven't upheld their affirmative burden to prove that the resolution is a true statement."

See also: Burden of Rejoinder, Negation Theory

AFFIRMATIVE CASE

Definition: The arguments an affirmative team presents to win the debate.

Example: An *affirmative case* which supports the resolution, "RESOLVED: That the United States should increase space exploration," might show that sending a space station to Venus would increase available minerals for the world's use. An *affirmative case* supporting the resolution, "RESOLVED: That H.I.V. testing is justified," might show that H.I.V. infections are rising and since testing would help reduce A.I.D.S., the tests are justified.

Usage: "What's their affirmative case?" (What position does that team take and what arguments do they use to support the resolution?)

Note: 'Case' often is used interchangeably with the term 'Plan'.

See also: Advantage, Case, Negative Case, Value support.

AFFIRMATIVE INCLUSIVE CRITIQUE

Definition: Advocating the entire affirmative case minus a word or argument and critiquing the word or the arguments that you delete from the case.

Example: If the affirmative's plan supports "development," you could do the counterplan to do the plan but not using the word/concept of development, and then kritik the use of development.

Usage: "Our negative strategy that round included an affirmative inclusive critique." (We presented a critique that round that supported the affirmative except for a word or argument in their case.)

Synonym: AIC.

See also: Critique, Performance, Speech Act.

AFTER DINNER SPEAKING (ADS)

Definition: A humorous speech of 8-10 minutes (depending on specific rules) usually with a serious point on a subject.

Example: Creating a speech about alcoholism that is humorously entertaining as well as respectful is an example of after dinner speaking.

Usage: "The winning After Dinner Speech dealt with a serious topic that entertained and inspired the audience."

Synonym: ADS.

Synonym: Special Occasion Speaking (SOS), Speech to Entertain.

AGENDA

Definition: The order of legislation as suggested by a committee or legislator, and voted on by the assembly (more commonly called the "calendar")

Example: Schools are randomly chosen to place a piece of legislation, chosen from the docket, in order for consideration. What results is a list of legislation to be spoken about in the order proposed.

Usage: "It is now time to set the agenda for this session of student congress."

See also: Calendar, Docket

AGENDA SETTING

See: Issue-Agenda Model.

AGENCY

Definition: The method or instrument used to take action; one of Burke's Pentadic Elements.

Example: The US Federal Government uses the State Department as the agency for interacting with foreign nations.

Usage: "Our counterplan was designed to use an agency different from the one offered by the Affirmative's plan."

Synonym: Mean.

See also: Agency, Agent, Purpose, Scene.

Citation: Kenneth Burke, *A Grammar of Motives* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press).

AGENT (BURKE'S PENTAD)

Definition: The person or entity responsible for an action; one of Burke's Pentadic Elements.

Example: If a person decides to protest government policy on taxation, that person is said to be an agent.

Usage: "The officer investigating the death claimed that it was not an accident, but was rather the work of an agent."

Synonym: Actor.

See also: Agency, Agent, Purpose, Scene.

Citation: Kenneth Burke, *A Grammar of Motives* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press).

AGENT (OF THE PLAN)

Definition: The person or group enacting the plan or counterplan.

Example: The US federal government is typically the agent for most affirmative plans.

Usage: "The affirmative agent is the US federal government." (The US federal government will implement the plan.)

Synonym: Actor.

See also: Fiat, International fiat, Plan.

AGENT (OF THE RESOLUTION)

Definition: The actor of the resolution; the person, group, or institution that will take action.

Example: The *agent* of the resolution, "RESOLVED: That the federal government should increase affirmative action programs," would be "the federal government" because it is the actor of the resolution.

See also: Agent counterplan, Agent of action/change, Value object.

AGENT COUNTERPLAN

Definition: A negative plan that supports a different agent from the plan.

Example: An affirmative team supports the resolution, "RESOLVED: That the federal government should change criminal trial rules". The negative could argue that the *agent counterplan* that states, and not the federal government, should change criminal trial rules. A more technical version would involve the following: the affirmative supports congressional action to change trial rules. The negative *agent counterplan* might be to have federal courts change the trial rules instead.

See also: Agent, Counterplan.

AGENT OF ACTION/CHANGE

Definition: The part of the plan that is responsible for the change supported by the affirmative; The board.

Usage: "What is the agent of change in your plan?" (Who will be implementing your plan? Who will be putting your plan into action?)

See also: Administration, Board.

AGENT SPECIFICATION

See: A-Spec, Vagueness, Void for Vagueness.

ALL-IN

Definition: Originally a poker term meaning to put all of one's chips into the pot. In other words, it means putting all your hopes of winning the debate into one argument or position.

Example: Often, when affirmative teams are losing to a good negative strategy, they will go "all-in" on theory, meaning they concede the rest of the substantive debate and claim that the only thing that matters is a theory argument.

Usage: "The affirmative was destroying us on the counterplan debate, so we decided that our only hope was to go all-in on topicality in the 2NR."

ALPHABETICAL FILING SYSTEM

Definition: To place evidence cards or briefs into sections with titles that are arranged in alphabetical order.

Example: An *Alphabetical Filing System* might include, in order, the following categories: Discrimination, Health care, Housing, Medicare, Retirement, Social security; with evidence placed into each category.

See also: Briefs, Cards, Filing.

ALTERNATE CAUSALITY

Definition: A factor, not originally considered, which is actually a or the cause of an event.

Example: An *alternate causality* to the causal argument, "Coal burning causes acid rain," might be, "Automobile exhaust actually is the main factor causing acid rain".

Also: Association, Brink, Causal relationship, Reasoning, Threshold.

ALTERNATIVE

Definition: An action usually advocated by the negative as a way to avoid the critique.

Example: The alternative to the statism critique (the state is bad) could be anarchy.

Example: A team presents an alternative to use cooperative mediation techniques as part of their kritik showing that the affirmative case and plan engages in conflict and confrontation.

Usage: "The negative didn't run an alternative to their critique last round." (The negative did not present another system/belief/action that would avoid the critique.)

Synonym: Floating PIC.

See also: Counterplan, Critique, Kritik, Value alternative.

ALTERNATIVE JUSTIFICATION CASE

Definition: An affirmative case which includes several plans each having independent advantages.

Example: An *Alternative Justification Case* might argue for a plan that closes down nuclear power plants, increases solar power, and bans oil imports. The advantages to the plan might be; 1) closing nuclear plants would decrease hazardous nuclear waste, 2) increasing solar power would provide environmentally safe energy, and 3) banning oil imports would decrease U.S. dependence on foreign oil and thereby decrease the chance of gas shortages.

Usage: "They ran an alternative justification case and severed advantage two." (They're argued a case with several plans and they dropped the part of the plan that gained advantage two--probably because their opponents showed that that part of the plan caused a large disadvantage.)

See also: Affirmative case, Conditionality, Disco, Sever.

AMEND

Definition: A change in a plan or case made after the plan or case has been presented.

Example: The affirmative presents a plan that will be financed by a gas and income tax. Then, after the negative presents a disadvantage against the gas tax, the affirmative team *amends* the plan by funding the plan only through the income tax.

Usage: "We amended our case by getting rid of the privacy argument." (In order to avoid the value objections run against the privacy argument, we no longer supported the privacy argument.) "We amended our plan in the 1AR." (In the first affirmative rebuttal speech we changed our plan.)

See also: Disco, Intrinsic, Perms, Sever.

AMENDMENT

Definition: A specific change to an item of legislation, explaining exactly which words it modifies and not changing the intent of the legislation itself. Must be approved as germane by the Parliamentarian and must have a 1/3 second AFTER being read but prior to discussion. Amendments do not have guaranteed authorship speeches. If discussion on the amendment occurs, the proponent's speech is determined by precedence/recency. The amendment requires a simple majority to be passed or rejected.

Example: When a student wishes to make a change in the legislation that they feel will make it more acceptable to the chamber, he/she may propose an amendment.

Usage: "I move to hear the amendment." (motion made after the parliamentarian has ruled on whether or not the amendment is germane.)

See also: proponent, precedence, recency, germane

AMERICAN FORENSIC ASSOCIATION

Definition: An organization of directors of forensics and interested teachers, professors, and students in American schools and colleges that promotes the study and practice of argumentation.

See also: Debate Organizations, Forensic, National Forensic Association.

AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE ASSOCIATION

See APDA.

AMPHIBOLY

Definition: Occurs when a sentence is worded in such a way that it can be read two ways including an incorrect or odd way.

Example: This morning I cooked breakfast in my bathrobe. This is an amphiboly because it could be read to say that the person cooked the breakfast in the bathrobe rather than on a stove.

See also: Fallacy, Style.

ANALOGY

Definition: Comparison of two or more things based on likeness or similarity.

Example: When one loses one's keys in the grass, one might analogize the situation to trying to "find a needle in a haystack."

Usage: "We attempted to explain our confusing argument to the critic using an analogy."

Synonym: Metaphor.

Citation: Chaim Perelman, *The Realm of Rhetoric*, (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press), 1982.

ANALYSIS

Definition: Coming up with points that will prove a main point or case; dividing a point into separate ideas.

Example: An *analysis* of the argument, "dogs are dangerous," might include coming up with these points; 1) pitbulls have killed, 2) runaways dogs are health threats, and 3) dogs running loose are road hazards.

Usage: "Let's analyze this argument." (Let's take a closer look at this argument to find points that will develop a case.) "The analysis is really good in that case." (That case is strongly supported by sharp, clear and important points.)

See also: Analytical, Deduction, Issues, Subordination.

ANALYTIC

Definition: An argument that relies on warranted logic rather than evidence.

Example: Indicting an opponent's piece of evidence is an analytic argument because it is made up in-round.

Usage: "The negative team has conceded our analytics on case."

ANALYTICAL

Definition: The ability to analyze.

Example: A person who carefully studied issues and was able to come up with important points would be called *analytical*.

See also: Analysis, Deduction.

ANTICIPATORY ARGUMENT/REFUTATION

See: Preemption.

ANALOGY

Definition: A comparison of two items or events.

Example: U.S. involvement in Afghanistan is like Vietnam.

Usage: "Sweden's success with health care insurance would be analogous to what would happen in America." (America would have the same success with health care insurance as Sweden.)

See also: Metaphor, Modeling (2), Reasoning.

ANNOUNCE IN ROUND

Definition: The disclosure of the winner of the round after a debate.

Example: At the end of a debate, a judge announces in the round: "I voted negative."

Usage: "Most of the judges will announce in round at this tournament." (Most judges at this tournament will announce their decision at the end of each round.)

Synonyms: Disclose.

See also: Warm Room.

ANSWER

Definition: Response to questions or opposing arguments.

Example: During cross-examination, the questioner might ask, "Is freedom more important than life?" An *answer* might be, "It can be when people have very little freedom". During a speech, a speaker *answers* opponent arguments like: "I have two answers to my opponent's argument. First, a jobs program would not cost that much. Estimates show it will cost just \$8 billion. Second, in the long run it saves money because it gets people off welfare."

Usage: "She had really good answers to that argument." (She made good responses to that argument.) "Their answers in cross-ex are really bad." (Their responses to questions in cross-examination are poor.)

See also: Cross-examination, Response.

ANTITHESIS

Definition: The polar opposite idea of something; an idea that directly clashes with another idea.

Example: The antithesis of light is darkness. The antithesis of social programs is libertarian rely on yourself philosophy.

Usage: "We argued that the plan was the antithesis of what was needed." (We argued that the plan was the opposite of what was needed.)

Synonym: Opposite.

Antonym: Thesis.

See also: Theme.

APATHY

Definition: Carelessness toward; without regard for something.

Example: When voter turnout is low, voters are said to feel apathetic to the political arena.

Usage: "We tried to combat civic apathy by getting more people involved."

Synonym: Disregard.

Citation: Kenneth Burke, *Permanence and Change* (Berkeley: University of California Press), 1954.

APDA-L

Definition: An e-mail discussion list devoted to discussion of APDA (American Parliamentary Debate Association) style parliamentary debate.

Subscribe by going to: www.wcdebate.com.

Usage: "They discussed tournament fee issues on the APDA-L." (They sent emails about tournament costs to the Parliamentary debate email list for APDA.)

See also: APDA-L, CX-L, E-Debate, IE-L, LD-L, Parli-L, listserv.

APPEAL

Definition: To make an argument that is supported by the audience's or judge's beliefs and/or emotions.

Example: An *appeal* to a judge's belief in the value of life might be: "The values of democracy help insure the quality of life and will even save lives."

See also: Pathos, Sophistry.

APPEAL A DECISION OF THE CHAIR

Definition: A motion to reverse the decision of the chairman. A second and majority vote is required.

Example: I appeal the decision of the chair as I should be recognized for this speech due to my precedence.

Usage: a student may question the ruling of the chair by raising his placard and saying "I appeal the decision of the chair." directly after the ruling.

See also: Point of Order

APPEARANCE

Definition: The way something is seen; an outward impression given by something. Appearance is often derided in rhetoric as being illusory, compromising of a deeper reality or truth.

Example: The cover of a book is said to be an appearance, as opposed to the content hidden within the book.

Usage: "Although the government claimed it was acting on the people's wishes, I suspect this is only an appearance."

Synonym: Semblance.

Citation: Chaim Perelman, *The Realm of Rhetoric*, (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press), 1982.

APPLICATIONS (INFORMATIVE)

Definition: Often the second main point of an informative speech, applications are examples of the topic as they are being practiced today (current time).

Example: In order to understand the power of this technology, we can look at its current applications in both the medical and the industrial world.

Usage: "All of your applications are hypothesized for the future. What's going on with this technology right now?"

APPLICATION(S) (RHETORICAL CRITICISM)

Definition: Typically the second main point in a Rhetorical Criticism, applications are the lines of comparison between the model being used and the artifact in question. These applications are typically based upon tenets drawn from the model by the speaker.

Example: "You provide three applications of the model: speaking by women, speaking by the elderly, and speaking by cultural others."

Usage: "I think your applications could go a little deeper."

Synonym: Analysis

APPROPRIATE TOPICS

Definition: Exhibit seriousness of purpose. The action proposed should be feasible and such that the actual United States Congress would consider. Topics should be debatable, meaning substantive argumentation exists on both sides.

Example: The debate about whether Superman or Spiderman would win in a fight is not an appropriate topic for student congress.

Usage: Generally an adult committee or tournament director approves the topics as appropriate.

APPROPRIATION

Definition: Using the rhetoric of the opposition to make its meaning more positive for your side.

Example: Parts of the Gay and Lesbian movements have claimed the word "Queer" as an appropriation. These movements use the word positively to empower their attempt to stop its use in a derogatory form.

Usage: "Our opponents claimed that our use of the state was complicit with its evils, but we responded that our action was a strategic appropriation of the state for good."

Synonym: Annexation, Rhetorical Hijacking, Reappropriation.

Citation: Kenneth Burke, *Attitudes Toward History*, (Berkeley: University of California Press), 1937.

A PRIORI.

Definition: An issue that needs to be dealt with before other issues can be considered.

Example: Some people claim that moral concerns must be a priori to engaging in some scientific research to make certain that such research does not do harm to others.

Usage: "They said that their voting issue was a priori to discussion of other issues in the debate round."

Synonym: Prerequisite.

Citation: Immanuel Kant, *The Metaphysics of Morals*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), 1996.

ARBITRARINESS

Definition: The extent to which a standard or definition is not rooted in a predictable determiner.

Example: A topicality definition from a library is not very arbitrary, because dictionaries are used very widely. A topicality definition that you make up off the top of your head is arbitrary because no one else could predict it.

Usage: "The affirmative said that a better topicality definition than ours would be if only their case were topical and all other cases were not-topical, but we won that their distinction was arbitrary and thus unfair."

See also: Competing Interpretations

ARGUE

Definition: To offer reasons for or against a position.

Example: A debater who says, "School prayer is good because it allows students to express their religion," is *arguing*.

Usage: "What did you argue?" (What arguments did you present to support your case?)

See also: Argument, Reasoning, Respond.

ARGUING IN A CIRCLE

Definition: To support an assertion with a reason that is the assertion itself.

Example: The death penalty is an effective deterrent because it scares people and it scares people because it is an effective deterrent.

See also: Begging the question, Fallacy.

ARGUMENT (Type 0)

Definition: Consideration of claims, reasons, responses, etc. in your mind prior to presentation of an argument.

Example: Thinking in your mind how to make a persuasive argument in favor of increasing taxation is an example of Argument type 0.

See also: Argument Type 1, Argument Type 2, Universal Audience.

ARGUMENT (Type 1)

Definition: A claim supported by evidence.

Example: Cars are dangerous because they get into accidents.

See also: Argument Type 0, Argument Type 2, Evidence, Label, Response.

Citation: Daniel O'Keefe, "Two concepts of Argument." *Argumentation & Advocacy*, 13:121-128.

ARGUMENT (Type 2)

Definition: A dispute, a debate.

Example: George Bush and Al Gore debating whether the United States should have tax cuts are engaged in an *argument (type 2)*.

Usage: "They had a big argument about the taxes in cross-examination." (Two debaters disputed a tax issue during the questioning period.)

See also: Argument Type 0, Argument Type 1, Debate, Dispute.

Citation: Daniel O'Keefe, "Two concepts of Argument." *Argumentation & Advocacy*, 13:121-128.

ARGUMENT BY ARGUMENT DEBATE

Definition: A debate in which just one issue is argued at a time.

Example: On a resolution, "RESOLVED: That Drug testing should be given to all workers," an *Argument by Argument Debate* would have debaters argue just one issue, for example, 'Is there a drug abuse problem?'. The issue that the debaters argue is usually an argument presented in an affirmative case. After that issue or argument has been thoroughly dealt with, the debaters argue the next argument in the case.

Usage: "Let's have an argument by argument debate." (Let's have a debate where we deal with one issue at a time.)

See also: Debate formats, Refutation.

ARGUMENT FIELD

Definition: Arguments that use the same kind of backing.

Example: The court arguments, "drug testing violates the fourth amendment because it involves direct observation of private activities," and, "drug testing violates the fourth amendment because it involves an assumption of guilty before innocent," may be from the same argument field if the two are similarly backed. For example, both arguments may be backed by court precedents that require private activities to be given the presumption of innocence because of the fourth amendment's stand against unreasonable search and seizure.

Synonym: Field (1).

See also: Backing, Field dependent, Field independent, Toulmin model of argument.

ARGUMENTATION

Definition: The process of reason giving by people seeking to justify positions.

Example: The reasons Bush gave for his tax cuts and the reasons opponents gave against his tax cuts.

Usage: "I study argumentation." (I look at reasons people give for their positions.)

See also: Debate, Dialectic, Persuasion, Sophistry.

ARGUMENTATIVE

Definition: To frequently want to dispute or debate others.

Example: Harold and Suzy argue about everything. They are very *argumentative*.

See also: Aggressive.

ART

Definition: A discipline; a framework or system of knowledge categorized around a specific purpose.

Example: In ancient Greek rhetoric, examples of arts are said to include rhetoric, philosophy, blacksmithing, politics, etc. This is especially prevalent in the work of Plato.

Usage: "The orator was said to be trained in the arts of politics and rhetoric."

Synonym: Field of knowledge.

Citation: Plato, *Gorgias*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 1994.

ARTIFACT

Definition: Object, subject, or focus of study and criticism. Although commonly thought of as ancient or archeological in nature, artifacts can be anything scholars might attempt to interpret.

Example: Modern rhetorical criticisms examine advertisements as artifacts. One could take advertisements representing women and use them as artifacts to examine how the media sees femininity.

Usage: "I am considering writing a paper examining telephone shapes as artifacts."

Synonym: Focal point.

Citation: Sonja Foss, *rhet crit*.

ARTIFICIAL COMPETITION

Definition: Occurs when a counterplan and a plan are competitive only because part of the counterplan unnecessarily uses part of the plan so that the plan and counterplan cannot co-exist; occurs when a value alternative and a value are competitive only because part of the value alternative unnecessarily uses part of the value so that the value and value alternative cannot both be supported.

Example: An *artificially competitive* counterplan might be one that takes the money which would fund the plan. This is *artificially competitive* because, while it would be undesirable and, perhaps even impossible, to implement this funding mechanism with the plan, this type of funding is extraneous--it is not necessary. It would not be undesirable, nor impossible, to implement the plan and counterplan with a different funding mechanism. *Artificial competitiveness* is usually considered illegitimate because the essential elements of the plan and counterplan or alternative and value object are still not competitive.

See also: Alternative, Competition, Counterplan.

ARTISTIC PROOF

Definition: A type of proof that is invented for a specific occasion; as opposed to the inartistic proof of some existing entity.

Aristotle identifies three examples of artistic proof: Ethos (credibility of the speaker), Pathos (passionate appeal of the speaker), and Logos (reasonableness of argument).

Example: The business book used artistic proof when it discussed an imaginary story about cheese to make its point that people need to adapt to change.

Usage: "The great orator appealed to the audience with superb use of artistic proof."

Antonym: Inartistic proof.

Citation: Aristotle, *On Rhetoric*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 1991.

A-SPEC

Definition: Jargon for Agent Specification. A generic argument focusing on the failure of the affirmative team to provide an agent to carry out their plan.

Example: If the government team ran a plan to give money to poor but didn't say who was giving it out, the government could run an A-SPEC argument that because we don't know who is running the program the money can't be given away.

Usage: "My next off-case argument is A-Spec."

Synonym: Agent Specification.

See also: Procedurals, Void for vagueness.

ASSEMBLY

Definition: A company of persons gathered for the deliberation and consideration of legislation.

Example: There are two assemblies in student congress: the house of representatives and the senate.

Usage: Each division of student congress is an assembly.

ASSERTION

Definition: A statement or argument without noticeable support.

Example: "Dishwashers are dangerous" is an *assertion* until it is supported.

Usage: "They kept asserting that their plan would solve." (They argued throughout the debate that their plan would solve without ever proving it.)

See also: Claim.

ASSERTIVENESS

Definition: Confidently presenting one's arguments without being rude.

Example: Deana presents her arguments confidently and is able to make her point and is still courteous. She is *assertive*.

See also: Aggressiveness.

ASSISTANT COACH

Definition: An individual who helps with the coaching of a squad.

Example: An assistant coach is usually the individual who watches the majority of practice debates and handles research efforts so the director can concentrate on the administrative responsibilities of running a team.

Usage: "Did you hear that Tim is going to be the Assistant Coach at ASU next year?"

See also: Assistant Director, Coach, Director of Forensics.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Definition: An individual who assists with the coaching and administrative duties of a debate team.

Example: An assistant director is usually an individual who splits their time running practice debates and assisting in the administrative duties of running a debate team. Often, this position leads to a full position as a Director of Forensics.

Usage: "After Paul took the DOF position with Rufus College, we got a new assistant director." (After Paul took the director of forensics position with Rufus College, we got a new person to run practice debates and some administration for our team.)

See also: Assistant Coach, Coach, Director of Forensics.

ASSOCIATION

Definition: Two events that are related to each other.

Example: Peanut butter is *associated* with cancer because those who eat more peanut butter tend to get cancer more frequently.

Usage: "They only showed an association." (They did not prove one thing caused another--just that the two occurred at the same time.)

See also: Causal relationships, Causation, Correlation, Link.

ASSUMPTION

Definition: An unstated premise of an argument; what an argument presumes to be true to make its conclusion valid; a warrant.

Example: If a person states that a radio could kill a human by electrocution, that person is making the *assumption* that a radio has enough electric current to cause a deadly electrocution.

Usage: "Doesn't your argument assume that companies won't leave the country?"
(Doesn't your argument presume that companies won't leave the country?)

See also: Enthymeme, Premise, Presumption, Syllogism.

Citation: Kenneth Burke, *Attitudes Toward History*, (Berkeley: University of California Press), 1937.

AT:/A2:

Definition: Short hand for "Answers To:"

Example: A page that is block titled "A2: Heg Good" is a page of answers to the argument that hegemony is good.

Usage: "When the negative read the States counterplan in the 1NC, I pulled my A2: States CP block."

See also: Block

ATTACK AND DEFENSE

See: Rebuttal, Refutation.

ATTENTION-GAINING DEVICE (ATTENTION GETTER)

Definition: The opening line(s) of a public address speech, designed to quickly and effectively arouse the interest and attention of the audience. Possible formats include stories, quotations, statistics, popular culture references, etc.

Example: The speech had a really effective attention-gaining device that related the current situation to that of ancient Greece.

Usage: "Consider finding a more compelling attention-gaining device. The current one is kind of dry."

Synonyms: Attention Getter

ATTIRE

Definition: The proper style of dress for a forensics tournament.

Example: Most men speakers wear suits and women speakers wear business suit/skirts or pantsuits. Attire can also refer to the overall look of the speaker, including appropriate shoes, makeup and hair for the occasion.

Usage: "The first speaker was docked points for wearing jeans and a sweatshirt, improper attire for any speech tournament."

See Also: Dress code.

ATTITUDINAL INHERENCY

Definition: Argues that the attitudes of those in charge of current programs prevent a solution to a problem.

Example: A mini-debate about *attitudinal inherency*:

Affirmative: The current administration is against changing the Israeli embassy location thereby making diplomatic efforts useless.

Negative: The current administration is making realistic efforts to persuade Israel to deal with its embassy location. This is the best diplomatic effort America can make.

Usage: "They used attitudinal inherency."
(Instead of discussing laws, programs or policies as the main emphasis of their inherency, they used the attitudes of the government.)

See also: Inherency, Structural inherency.

AUDIENCE

Definition: The person or persons listening to, viewing and/or seeing speakers, interpretation performers, or debaters.

Example: The judge and any other observers of a debate are an *audience*.

Usage: "We adapted to the audience." (We presented our arguments in a favorable way to the people listening to the debate.)

See also: Audience analysis, Critic, Judge.

Citation: Chaim Perelman, *The Realm of Rhetoric*, (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press), 1982.

See also: Particular audience, Universal audience.

AUDIENCE ADAPTATION

See: Judge adaptation.

AUDIENCE ANALYSIS

Definition: The process of finding out what the audience likes to hear from speakers.

Example: Finding out that the judge in your debate round wants you to speak slower and likes criteria arguments is *audience analysis*.

See also: Audience, Critic, Judge.

AUDIENCE DEBATE

Definition: A debate for a group of people who are typically not debate experts.

Example: A debate in front of the rotary club would be an *audience debate*.

See also: Debate.

AUTHORITY

Definition: The persuasive power of someone usually based on a perception of their power, expertise, credibility, prestige, etc.

Example: We are more inclined to believe what a medical professional says about health issues because such a person appears to have more expertise and knowledge about the subject.

Usage: "The expert they cited was not an authority in the field of engineering."

Citation: Kenneth Burke, *Attitudes Toward History*, (Berkeley: University of California Press), 1937.

See also: Credibility, Evidence, Expert, Source.

AUTHORSHIP SPEECH

Definition: a constructive speech of up to three (3) minutes given by a legislator, which introduces an item of legislation for debate by the chamber. It is called a sponsorship speech if given by a student who is not affiliated with the school from which the legislation originated. All authorship/sponsorship speeches are followed by a two-minute questioning period. All affirmative and negative speeches that follow an authorship speech should introduce new ideas (arguments) and respond to previous arguments (refute or rebut).

Example; We first need an argument in support of the bill, the author needs to provide an authorship speech.

Usage: A member of the school who authored the bill gives the first speech to introduce the legislation when called to do so by the presiding officer.

See also: Sponsorship

AVANT-GARDE

Definition: A particular genre of interpretation literature and/or performance that is designed to challenge the audience's (pre)conceptions of what is or should be done. Both theme and performance choice can be considered avant-garde.

Example: A persuasive speech on why judges shouldn't be used in forensics. Touching the other performer in Duo Interpretation. Closing the black book during an interpretation performance.

Usage: "Pulling visual aids out of your black book is certainly avant-garde, but I'm not sure it's worth the risk."

AWARDS

Definition: Symbols, usually in the form of trophies, used to reward individuals or teams for outstanding performance.

Example: Speaker awards, Sweepstakes awards, and Out-round trophies are all forms of awards.

Usage: "Geoff really deserves that first place speaker award." (Geoff really deserves that symbol of reward for being the top speaker.)

Synonym: Hardware, Paperweight, Trophies.

See also: Placings, Rankings, Trophies

AXIOM

Definition: A truth that is recognized as self evident and is known to be universally true; often used as a starting point for proving or believing in other ideas or thoughts.

Example: Descartes believed his statement, "I think, therefore, I am" was an axiom from which he could attempt to prove other knowledge correct.

Usage: "We did not believe the study was correct about its assumed axiom." (We did not believe the study was correct about its initial assumptions.)

See also: Beliefs, Facts, Opinions.

Citation: Stephen W. Littlejohn, *Theories of Communication*, (Wadsworth: U.S.) 2002.

