

Terminology you may hear in a debate round

- **Card:** Single piece of evidence or quote from an article. This is a hangover from old-school index cards.
- **Contention, evidence (cards), warrant.** This is the anatomy of any good argument. Contention (a claim) is stated, followed by evidence, and followed by a warrant (a logical explanation of how the evidence supports the Contention)
- **Impact:** WHY the Contention, cards, and warrants matter. In PF, these are usually numerical impacts. It matters because it will save x-number of lives, or it will increase the economy by x-percent or it will create x-number of jobs. Impacts go at the end of a section supporting a Contention.
- **Drop:** Used two ways: 1) Judge they **dropped** our second Contention (they failed to respond to it and therefore they agree to the argument 2) Judge we are going for our first contention, drop our second (it doesn't matter in the round)
- **Flowing:** note-keeping in debate, arguments continuing speech to speech. Debaters always do this. A flow judge keeps notes during the debate to know what arguments are being addressed and which are being dropped.
- **Link:** the link is how one thing leads to, or is related to, another. Debaters try to create links. Their opponents try to break the link in order to disprove the final Impact.
- **Paradigm:** Judge preferences on certain things in a debate round.
- **Resolution:** The debate topic. Pay attention to the wording. Example: Resolve: The deployment of an anti-missile system is in South Korea's best interest. If the Pro starts arguing that this will help the US, then all of these arguments are worthless.
- **Spreading:** talking very fast, stands for "speed reading"
- **Tags:** a "title" or a few words to describe the card or point.
- **Turn:** To show how something the other team said is actually in support of your side. They use this often, so be aware of this term. "Judge, we turned their New York Times card to support our claim that _____."
- **Weigh:** Telling the judge how to deal with arguments and cards, like how an impact should be considered or why a card should be valued over another. "Judge, you should weigh our impact of 2.3 million jobs created over saving a species that we have proved is not even endangered."
- **World:** Debaters often say, "In the Pro world...In the Con world..." They are saying that if you vote for Pro this is what the world will be like.
- **Framework (LD):** The mechanism for weighing the round. In absence of FW, use value.
- **Value (LD):** This is the main mechanism which the judge will use to weigh the round. Usually some overarching principle like life, morality, or justice.