



## NSDA Big Questions Judge Training Glossary of Debate Terms

	<b>Jargon</b>
Round	The actual time of competition. The students will compete against one other team from another school while being judged. Only one team may win a debate round. There are several rounds per tournament.
Preliminary Rounds	Abbreviation – Prelims Most tournaments have three to six preliminary rounds that determine which teams/students will continue on to elimination rounds and/or finals.
Elimination Rounds	Abbreviation – Elims Elimination rounds are the rounds after preliminary rounds. If a student makes it to elims that means they are at least in the top half of all competitors in their event. If you win all of your elims, you have won the tournament. Usually tournaments are single elimination which means if you lose once in elims, you're out of the tournament.
Breaking /Breaks, Clearing, or Advancing	When a student breaks, clears, or advances at a tournament that means they did well enough in preliminary rounds to continue on to the elimination rounds. Some tournaments will have as many as four or five elimination rounds. Some tournaments will break or clear straight to finals.
Speaker Points & Speaker Awards	Abbreviation - Speaks In debate, students are given points each round based upon their speaking ability in relation to the others in the round. Speaker points are on a 25-30 scale. At the end of the preliminary rounds, the scores are tabulated and the top students are awarded individual awards for their performance. Most tournaments award the top 6 to 10 students.
Flowing	The term of art for the way debaters and judges take notes.
Prepping	The shorthand term for the work done before round – If a student is prepped for a tournament, they are ready for the tournament. This term can also be used to describe the debaters' work during preparation time.
Schematics	Abbreviation - Schems The list at a tournament of who is competing when and where and who is judging. Usually the competitors' names are abbreviated by their initials.
Flights	At some tournaments there aren't enough judges for all of the rounds, so the rounds will be flighted. The judge will stay in the same room and after the first round is over, and the second set of competitors will come in and a second flight will begin.
Tab	Short for tabulation, this is where the organizers of the tournament create schematics and make decisions. If judges have any questions, arguments, or issues, tab is the place to get answers.
Framework	Some debaters may provide framework arguments during their Constructive speeches. Framework arguments will define the metrics for how the judge should evaluate the debate.



Contention	Arguments in debaters' Constructive speeches will be in groupings called contentions. Each contention represents a separate argument for or against the resolution.
Card	Debaters may refer to a piece of quoted evidence as a card.
Drop	To drop an argument is to fail to respond to that argument. If one side drops an argument in an early speech, they cannot respond to it later in the debate.
Extend	To extend an argument is to bring up an argument in later speeches that was explained earlier in the round. Key arguments should be extended through each speech in order to be evaluated at the end of the round. An argument that was dropped in an early speech may not be extended in the rationale.