advantage: a description used by the affirmative to explain what beneficial effects will result from its plan.

affirmative: The team in a debate which supports the resolution and speaks first and last in the order of the speeches.

affirmative case: The initial affirmative position (presented in the Affirmative Constructive) which demonstrates that there is a need for change because there is a serious problem (harm, or need) which the present system cannot solve (inherency) but which can be solved by the affirmative plan (solvency).

affirmative plan: The policy action advocated by the affirmative

burden of proof: 1) The requirement that sufficient evidence or reasoning to prove a claim should be presented; 2) the requirement that the affirmative must prove the stock issues.

burden of rebuttal or clash: The requirement that each speaker continue the debate by calling into question or disputing the opposition's argument on the substantive issues.

comparative advantage case: An affirmative case format that argues desirable benefits of the plan in contrast to the present system. It claims advantages in comparison to present policies.

constructives: The first four speeches of the debate, the two Affirmative Constructives (1AC, 2AC) and the two Negative Constructives (1NC, 2NC). Arguments are initiated in these speeches and extended in rebuttals.

criteria case: An affirmative case format that posits a goal and then outlines the criteria necessary to achieve the goal.

cross-examination: a three minute period following each of the constructive speeches in which a member of the opposing team directly questions the speaker.

disadvantage ("DA" or "disad"): An undesirable, effect of the plan. To prove a disadvantage, negative must try to link it to the affirmative plan, prove it is unique to the affirmative plan, and prove that its impact is sufficiently undesirable to outweigh the affirmative advantages.

dropped argument: An argument is normally considered dropped if it is not answered in the speech in which the opposing team has the first opportunity to answer it.

evidence: Quotes which tend to prove or provide grounds for belief. Each quotation must include a citation of the author and qualifications (if available), the source, date, and page number.

Extratropical: Components of an affirmative plan that are non-topical actions or that are advantages that flow from non-topical aspects of a plan.

fiat: a term used to describe a "suspension of disbelief" that allows us to debate not whether a policy "would" be adopted, but whether a policy "should" be adopted.

flow: To take notes of the debate, argument by argument in a linear fashion, using columns and abbreviations on a flowsheet or pad of paper.

goals case: An affirmative case format that claims a particular goal is sought by the status quo and then argues that the plan benefit meets that goal.

harm: problem or problems claimed in the affirmative case.

inherency: The cause of a problem's existence, the proof that the problem will continue, and the barrier preventing current programs from solving a problem.

mandate: The part of the plan that indicates what policy changes are advocated by the Affirmative.

minor repair: A non-resolutional change in existing programs; a small change that can solve much of the affirmative harm.

negative: The team assigned to negate the affirmative case: speaks second in the debate.

On-case: arguments that directly respond to the affirmative's case, on point, using the affirmative's organization.

Off-case: Negative arguments that, while not directly responding to the affirmative's case point by point, are offered as significant reasons for rejecting the case or plan.

prima-facie: The requirement that the affirmative present a case that is acceptable upon first examination; generally meaning that a case must present harms, a plan, and advantages.

rebuttal: Any of the last four speeches in a debate and during which arguments are not to be initiated, but only extended upon. These rebuttal speeches, in order, are the 1st Negative Rebuttal (1NR), the 1st Affirmative Rebuttal (1AR), the 2nd Negative Rebuttal (2NR), and the 2nd Affirmative Rebuttal (2AR).

refutation: A direct response to an opponent's argument.

CCofSE Policy Debate Glossary

resolution: A proposition of fact, value or policy which the affirmative is obligated to support; a statement which focuses debate by dividing argument ground on any given topic.

round: The basic unit of debate competitions. Each round has two Affirmative and two Negative debaters and one or more judges. A win or loss and speaker points are awarded for each round.

significance: The measure, qualitative or quantitative, of the need claimed by the affirmative. Can be the number of people affected, the degree of violation of a particular liberty, or the risk of an impact occurring.

solvency: The ability of the affirmative plan to solve the problem, meet the need, reduce the harm;

splitting the negative: Splitting the negative is a split of the negative block, which is essentially a division of labor between the two negative speakers. This technique is allowed in this League, although please note that no new arguments are allowed in the 1NR speech.

status quo: The present system, the way things are now, the world as we know it exists now in existing structures and policies.

stock issues: Those issues that the affirmative must substantiate, (significance, inherency, Solvency, topicality) in order to win a debate.

topicality: The quality or condition of falling under the range of the resolution's possibilities.

voting issue: An argument which, independently of all arguments in the debate, is an issue which justifies voting for the team which initiated the argument.