

30: 1. The number of speaker points you thought you should get. 2. The number of speaker points you didn't get. 3. The number of speaker points given to both teams in the down-four bracket by judges who, in their own debating careers, spent a lot of time in the down-four bracket.

a priori argument: 1. An argument that bears no relationship to the concept of *a priori*, but is rather something you expect the judge to accept without your having to prove it. Let's face it: Kant only came up with two a priori concepts; if yours isn't one of them, well, I knew Immanuel Kant, and you are no Immanuel Kant!

Arrogance: 1. Air breathed by pretty much everyone in forensics.

Assertion: 1. 99% of what you hear in any debate round.

Award ceremony: 1. Allocation of accolades at a tournament, where the top participants receive trophies and the bottom participants sneak home early on the bus of shame. 2. [Usage, *Big Bronx, always plural, "Awards Ceremonies"*] Series of regularly occurring events between rounds where debaters, alumni, coaches, bus drivers, trophy manufacturers, pastry chefs, drum majorettes, chicken farmers, coal miners, door-to-door encyclopedia salesmen, Oscar Meyer Weiner truck drivers, Las Vegas showgirls, George Lucas, axe murderers, dictators from third world nations no one can find on the map, school administrators (who wear special badges to distinguish them from the dictators from third world nations no one can find on the map), theremin marching bands, the inventor of the clothes pin and other forensics dignitaries are given trophies thanking them for their service to the community. Recipients who haven't gotten a clue why they received this award are allowed to turn them in for fifty cents on the dollar and take a cash prize instead, while the trophy is recycled for the event following the next round where another hundred people will be honored.

Bagels: 1. Doughy bread products available only in New York; if a tournament isn't in New York, whatever that thing is that looks like a bagel, isn't.

Ballot table: 1. Literally, a table where tab room staff put the ballots. 2. Place at which, if a student is sitting there, said student mistakenly believes he or she is running the tournament. [NOTE: *Advent of preprinted ballots eliminated need for students to sit at ballot table in 1992.*]

Ballot: 1. Written explanation from the judge of what happened in a round and why a particular decision was rendered. 2. Item missing from school packet for any crucial round where the decision was not clear.

Bracket: 1. Breakout of who is scheduled to meet whom in which round according to rank, so that teams that are larger than the population of North Korea can send troops in to scout the probable upcoming competition.

Bye: 1. Free win. The later in the tournament you are given one, the more you suck.

Caffeine: 1. Primary fuel driving the judge pool, available in coffee, tea, carbonated beverages and items like Red Bull that taste like human waste but cost twice as much (as soda, not twice as much as human waste, which most people can't even give away). 2. Secondary fuel driving the competitor field, as above. (*NOTE: Primary fuel driving the competitors = adrenaline.*)

Card: 1. A piece of evidence. (*Source: Originally all evidence was written on index cards, hence this usage. Anyone who can remember when all evidence was written on index cards should be an automatic strike for all varsity debaters.*)

Catholic Forensic League: 1. League for forensics students of all religions to participate in competitions that open with a prayer, to which the correct response, people, is "Amen," not a round of applause.

CFL Nationals: AKA CatNats. 1. Annual tournament featuring speech events with marginally different rules from NFL Nationals. (Debate events are also rumored to be offered at CatNats, but so far no objective data has been submitted to support this claim.)

Coach-over: 1. When two teams from the same school are scheduled to meet in an elimination round, the coach can choose which team advances. This is usually the team with the better speaker points, unless there is a seniority rule in effect, or if some team that is larger than the population of North Korea is trying to break this one and not that one into the TOC.

Co-champions: 1. Debaters who win semifinal rounds at tournaments where everybody else wants to go home now.

Coin flip: 1. How all sides are determined in break rounds; in LD, if one wins the flip, one can choose to debate either negative or on the losing side. 2. How all sides *and* precedence in all rounds of PF are determined, except under the purview of the Pope, where sides and precedence are strictly prescribed. (*NOTE: In some CFL tournaments other than Nationals, bingo is often substituted for the coin flip.*)

Community rankings: 1. Everyone attending a debate tournament ranks the judges, and tab places the judges in brackets according to majority rankings, thus guaranteeing the tragic death of debate as we know it in the US, Canada, the Philippines and the open market, albeit at a slower rate than with MJP.

Congress: AKA Legislative Debate, Congressional Debate, Forensics Chloroform. 1. PF for dummies. 2. Extemp for dummies.

Counterplan: 1. Alternate solution, proposed by the con, so that the pro can automatically win a PF round.

Criterion: 1. Quantifiable measurement a qualitative value premise in LD, mostly used to distract everyone from the pointlessness of a given debate case.

Cross Examination: 1. Alternative to flex prep, preferred by novices, lay judges, and coaches born during the Polk administration, where you have to ask your opponents to answer questions. 2. Alternative to flex prep, preferred by novices, lay judges, and coaches born during the Polk administration, where you have to avoid answering your opponent's questions.

Debate ziti: 1. Large tubs of formerly hot pasta available, usually for free, at debate tournaments. AKA "Tastes of the Mediterranean" or "Pasta Bar," but no, really, it's still formerly hot pasta, no matter what they call it.

Disad: 1. Opposite of datad. (*Plural: demads, also deseads and doseads.*)

Disclosure: 1. Announcement of the decision by the judge after the round has concluded. (*NOTE: Judges who disclose before the round has concluded, while being honest, are not necessarily being tactful, and should be warned to wait until a more suitable moment.*)

Drop / pick up: 1. A loss (drop) or win (pick-up) in a round. (*Usage: The judge dropped his ass faster than a tasteless joke that shouldn't be printed here. Also, The judge dropped me but I really should have picked up.*)

Dropped argument: 1. An argument that is never mentioned again in a round. If a debater drops an argument, it is of no consequence and does not play into the reason for decision; if a debater's opponent drops an argument, it is the only crucial argument that was made in the round and should be the only reason for decision.

Education: 1. In theory arguments, that thing that your opponent's case does not support, that you carry on your shoulders while it's wearing laurels and doing the Queen Elizabeth royalty wave to its minions.

Eponymous debate round: 1. At Big Bronx, a round named after someone who, if they are judging the round, is struck by all the debaters.

Evidence: 1. Proof that what a debater is saying is correct. 2. Measurement tool (*PF*); the team with the most evidence, regardless of whether or not it is introduced in a round, wins. Simply putting a substantial accordion folder on a desktop is good enough in most situations. 3. What LD didn't have, back when it was good.

Extemp: 1. Complicated dance which begins with dropping hand into hat and drawing three slips of paper, throwing two back, running to desk to research, scratching out case on index card, walking through hallways to round talking to oneself, standing still and telling same empathetic personal story in no way related to subject for the one thousandth four hundredth and eighty-eighth time while demonstrating how it relates to subject, two steps to the left, contention one, two steps to the right, contention two, two steps to the

middle, spin your partner, do-si-do, summarize, walk out of room, whine to coach. 2. Rinse. Repeat.

Flex prep: 1. Only opportunity you'll get during the round to literally read your opponent's case and try to make sense of it, since it was read aloud so fast in between multiple gasps for breath that no one in the room, including your opponent, has the least idea what it's all about.

Flow: 1. Notes taken during a round, often but not always reflecting what was said by one or the other of the teams debating.

Forfeit: 1. Automatic loss, usually given for showing up half an hour late (and blaming everyone but yourself), breaking down in tears halfway through cross-examination, throwing a chair at the judge, throwing a chair at your opponent, throwing a judge at your opponent, texting your coach during prep time and asking for an answer to util, etc.

Framework: 1. The structure of an LD case (value/criterion/contentions) that is often the sole subject of a debate round, meaning that the debaters are not debating the resolution, but rather they're debating the debating. The educational value of such heuristic argumentation is, uh, debatable.

Hired judge: 1. Hungover college student, at either graduate or undergraduate level.

Individual events: *AKA speech.* 1. The other stuff people in forensics do, none of which has any value except extemp.

Institute: 1. Debate summer camp. 2. The road to perdition. 3. Money for nothing (*when applied to college student instructors*).

Judge obligation: 1. The requirement to judge a certain number of rounds as a contingency to your registration. *AKA*, "Since I'm such a bad judge, you won't really want me in our rounds," *AKA*, "We have to drive a long way to get home, so can we pick up our ballots now," *AKA*, "When I didn't read the registration, I didn't read that," *AKA*, "I've never heard of such a thing, but then again, I've never been to a debate tournament before and/or I'm a total idiot."

Judge panel: 1. A group of judges, usually three in number, adjudicating a single elimination round, chosen by tab so that no two have even remotely the same paradigm.

Judge paradigm: 1. Specific exegesis, often online, of precisely what nonsense up with which a judge will put. 2. Specific exegesis, often online, of precisely what nonsense up with which a judge will put, which, in fact, bears no resemblance to the nonsense up with which a judge will put.

Judge training: 1. A bad sign, if you're waiting for your judge to arrive from it.

Judge's lounge: 1. Sad attempt by novice debater to label the room where judges should go for cold coffee and whining about tab/debate/education-in-general. Misuse of punctuation suggests that only one judge will be allowed in the room.

Judges lounge: 1. Declarative sentence explaining what judges do during most of a tournament. 2. Imperative sentence telling the judges to cool their heels for a few minutes.

Judges' lounge: 1. The room where judges should go for cold coffee and whining about tab/debate/education-in-general.

Junior varsity debater: 1. Student in second year of debate. 2. Student in third year of debate who should have joined the chess club.

Justice: 1. Value in an LD round where the debater couldn't come up with anything better.

Kritik: 1. Case you only have to write once in your entire debate career that demonstrates that every possible affirmative on any conceivable resolution is utterly laughable.

LD (Lincoln-Douglas): 1. Policy for dummies.

Major domo: 1. Team member assigned to work with the tab staff, a tournament job that most students would drop in a second if they could, say, milk a swimming pool full of cobras for the day instead, if, indeed, they could tell the difference between the tab staff and a swimming pool full of cobras.

Starting time: 1. Five minutes ago is the normal starting time for the next round that is printed on the ballots.

Minorities in debate: 1. The majority of people in debate.

Mutual Judge Preferences: 1. Both teams rank the judges, and tab finds them their highest preferred judge for a given round, thus guaranteeing the tragic death of debate as we know it in the US, Canada, the Philippines and the open market.

National Forensic League: 1. League for forensics students throughout the country, except the northeast.

NFL Nationals: *AKA NatNats.* 1. Don't know: never been, never gonna go. Don't ask.

NFL points: 1. Measurement of how often a debate coach goes online to register that the members of his or her team actually showed up somewhere in a forensic capacity. 2. Mathematical paradox where debaters who lose get more points than IEers who win. 3. What you get for your hundred bucks a year.

Novice debater: 1. Student in first year of debate. 2. Student in second, third or fourth year of debate, whose coach doesn't understand the meaning of "first year of debate."

One-clap rule: 1. Instead of people hemorrhaging and participating in virtual orgasms after the announcement of each of their teammates in an award ceremony, the assembled multitudes are limited to one clap per name, except in response to the naming of the winners of an event, in which case hemorrhaging and virtual orgasms will be allowed for up to thirty seconds.

PF (Public Forum): 1. LD for dummies.

PIC: 1. Argument which, if you have to wonder if your judge will understand it, your judge won't understand it.

Policy (P): 1. LD for schools without an LD program.

Pre-registration: 1. Entry of names, usually fictitious, at the first possible moment, to insure more slots at a tournament than a school needs. Usually performed online, often by students masquerading as coaches, and occasionally by coaches masquerading as coaches.

Presumption: 1. In Policy debate, the burden of proof that the system must be changed falls on the affirmative, hence the status quo is presumed to be okay until determined otherwise in the round, hence there is a "presumption" for the negative. 2. In LD debate, the mistaken idea that LD is policy.

Progressive debate: 1. The way I debate, which is the latest thing and way smart and clever, as compared to the way you debate, which isn't.

Rand, Ayn: 1. A name you don't hear much in debate anymore, so there's at least one positive result of so-called progressive debate.

Regional debate: 1. Second rate debate, when referring to regions other than one's own. 2. Top-rate debate being consistently ignored by the TOC committee, when referring to one's own region.

RFD: AKA Reason for Decision. 1. Why a given side won a debate. Example (*college judge*): "Oral." Example (*parent judge*): "The aff was more persuasive." Example (*high school junior judge*): "Your argument isn't what I'm running on this topic, so you lose."

Road map: 1. Overview before a speech explaining where the speech will go and in what order. Usually more confusing than the actual speech, and seldom an accurate prediction of where the speech will go and in what order.

Runners: 1. Slow moving novices charged with racing ballots to the tab room. Recognizable by the wings on their sandals and the cobwebs on the rest of their bodies.

RVI: 1. Affirmative argument that judges inevitably a) do not understand, and b) will cite as key in their RFD.

Schedule: 1. Clearly outlined times for all rounds, meals, housing, awards, etc., at a tournament. Usually fictional.

Schematic: 1. List of who's debating whom, where, and with which judge. Usually posted online or distributed throughout a tournament hot off the printer. (*NOTE: It is generally believed by debate judges that reading a schematic will cause scabies, dengue fever or the yaws, and therefore it is preferable to stand in front of the ballot table trying to find your name in the pile of ballots. Since the number of debate judges who can find their names in a pile of ballots, even when that pile is sorted alphabetically, is woefully small, the resulting traffic jam at the ballot table usually slows down a tournament by about half an hour per round.*)

School lavatory: 1. Mildly noxious bathroom facilities located throughout the building (*day one of tournament*). 2. Seriously noxious bathroom facilities located throughout the building (*day two of tournament*). 3. If there's a day three of tournament, hold it till you get home.

Signposting: 1. Clearly stating in a round the argument to which you are responding, so that the opponents and judges will know what you are talking about. (*NOTE: This refers to novices only. After that, it's every man for himself.*)

Sleep: 1. What judges do whenever they can, including during rounds. See also *texting*.

Social contract: 1. Concept in political philosophy regarding rights, society and the individual that applies only to novice debaters; anyone in their second or later year of debate arguing the social contract receives an automatic forfeit.

Speaker awards: 1. Recognition of oratorical prowess in activities entirely devoid of oratorical value.

Speaker points: 1. In rounds where the speed is so pervasive that no one understands a word anyone is saying at the time, the random assignment of numbers rating the oratorical ability of each speaker. 2. In rounds where the speed is not so pervasive that no one understands a word anyone is saying at the time, a numbering system from 0 to 30 without any objective criteria, where only some of the numbers are used, often including half points and even tenths of a point, in order to rate the oratorical ability of each speaker. Really. I'm not making this up.

Speech: *See Individual events, if you really don't know what speech is, but why do you care anyhow?*

Speechies: 1. Vulgar nickname for participants in speech events.

Speecho-Americans: 1. Correct nickname for participants in speech events, except in other countries, where they would be Speecho-Italians or Speecho-Frenchies or whatever.

Speed: 1. That thing that, when you asked about it, you were told not really, but you ignored it and when as fast as humanly possible anyhow, so why did you bother to ask in the first place?

Tab room staff: 1. 1. Nastiest adults at any tournament. No, really. You should watch these people in action.

Tab room: 1. Secret location at tournament where pairings are cooked up out of the imaginations of coaches too removed from the activity to actually adjudicate, using their private little cadre of demonic judges promoting their hidden agenda to ruin [*insert LD, PF or Policy*] debate for all time, to which entry by students is strictly limited to those who are bleeding profusely and entry by adults is strictly limited to those who are not here to complain, hang out with the cool people or generally exist in the same universe.

Theory: 1. Thing one may lose on, but never in.

They: 1. The people actually running a tournament, as compared to the tournament director and the tab staff, who are simply the front people. Often quoted throughout the tournament: "*They* say they're breaking only one 4-2..." "I hear that *They* are going to break all winning records, including the 3-3s..." "*They* are going to have 8 rounds...." "*They* ate all the bagels..."

TOC committee: 1. Satanic cabal, possibly non-human or undead, working out of an undisclosed location somewhere in the state of Kentucky.

TOC: 1. Tournament where you have to pay even if you don't get in, an idea that you'd think would catch on among your average cash-strapped high schools. 2. Only competitive event held in Kentucky that doesn't feed its participants bags of oats. In fact, it doesn't feed its participants anything, another idea that you'd think would catch on among average cash-strapped high schools.

Topicality: 1. Argument that your opponent's debate case bears no relationship to the true meaning of the resolution, including usage of the words "and" and "the." (*NOTE: Not to be confused with "tropicality," the ability of a debater to make you wish you were on a warm sunny island with a cold drink in your hand and a good-looking native by your side, rather than sitting here listening to this drivel. Also not to be confused with "Tropicana," purveyors of fruit juices that you'll never see served in the judges' lounges, where Tang is still the liquid of choice.*)

Trophy: 1. Physical reward for a tournament job well done.

Trophy strut: 1. Ability to walk from one's seat in the auditorium to the podium in no less than five minutes, moving every part of one's body except one's feet, in order to savor the moment, or more to the point, moments.

Trophy wife: 1. Spouse of a trophy. If a trophy is female, then the correct term is trophy husband. If a trophy is of indeterminate sexual orientation, it is sent to the nearest speech tournament.

Turn: 1. Specific name for any argument whatsoever (*novice only*). 2. Way to get your opponent's argument to work either in your own favor or against your opponent. Care must be taken with arguments that turn both your own and your opponent's cases, following which neither of you is better off than when you started (*varsity*). 3. That thing which, when correct, is what your bus missed two hours ago.

Util: 1. Water works or electric company.

Value: 1. Transcendent quality (justice, morality, goodness) which all LD cases inherently strive to achieve.

Values debate: 1. What LD no longer is.

Varsity debater: 1. Disreputable gangsta wannabe with thousands of pages of research (*policy*). 2. Junior varsity policy debater (*LD*). 3. Mean-spirited high school senior with exceptionally poisonous sneer (*PF*).

Warrant: 1. Good reason for doing something, i.e., the motivation behind an argument. (*Mythical*.) 2. What your arguments have that your opponents' arguments don't have, and vice versa.

Wording committee: 1. Confused collection of NFL members chosen at random for their inability to manipulate the English language (*LD*). 2. A random NFL staffer tossing a dart at a copy of today's newspaper (*PF*).