



PF Glossary and a 10-Week Practice Plan.

More than forty beginner terms in plain English, followed by a week-by-week plan a student can follow at home with a parent or teammate. Tape the glossary to a binder and tick off the plan.

Round basics

Resolution

The statement the teams debate.

Con

The side that opposes the resolution.

Rebuttal

A speech answering the other side's arguments.

Final focus

The last speech, giving voting reasons.

Grand crossfire

Crossfire with all four debaters.

Coin flip

A pre-round toss that decides choices of side or order.

Ballot

The judge's written decision.

Pro

The side that supports the resolution.

Constructive

The first speech, where a case is presented.

Summary

A speech that narrows the round to key issues.

Crossfire

Questions and answers between debaters.

Prep time

Time to prepare between speeches.

Judge

The person who decides the winner.

Timekeeper

Person who tracks speech and prep time.

Arguments and evidence

Case

Your team's prepared set of arguments.

Tagline

A one-sentence label for an argument.

Impact

The result that matters in the end.

Framework

A standard for how to judge the round.

Evidence

Facts or expert statements that support a claim.

Cut card

Evidence trimmed from a source with citation.

Contention

A main argument in a case.

Warrant

The reason an argument is true.

Link

A step connecting one idea to the next.

Definition

The meaning of a key term.

Card

A piece of cited evidence.

Paraphrase

Evidence put in your own words.

Citation

Author, date and source information.

Source

Where evidence comes from.

Evidence challenge

A request to verify evidence.

Debate skills

Line-by-line

Answering arguments in order.

Roadmap

A short preview of what you will cover.

Drop

To leave an argument unanswered.

Delink

Show a step in their chain does not hold.

Weighing

Comparing impacts.

Probability

How likely the impact is.

Scope

How many are affected.

Flow

Debate notes on paper.

Signpost

Telling the judge where you are.

Extend

Carry an argument into a later speech.

Turn

Argue the other side's point helps you.

Collapse

Focus on your best arguments only.

Magnitude

How big the impact is.

Timeframe

When the impact happens.

Clash

Direct disagreement on the same point.

Voting issue

A main reason to vote for a team.

10-week practice plan

Aim for three to four short sessions a week of 20 to 40 minutes. Adjust to your school schedule and tournament dates. Mark the box when done.

WEEK	FOCUS	ACTIVITY
1	Learn the format	Read the round guide, memorize speech order, learn the glossary.
2	Research	Pick a practice topic. Find five reliable sources and record citations.
3	Write a case	Draft two contentions using the template.
4	Deliver	Read the case aloud with a timer. Aim for under four minutes.
5	Crossfire	Run drills 1 to 6 from the crossfire guide.
6	Rebuttal	Practice line-by-line answers to a sample case.
7	Summary and weighing	Collapse to two issues; write weighing sentences.
8	Final focus	Write and time a two-minute final focus.
9	Flowing	Flow two debates or speeches and compare with a partner.
10	Practice round	Run a full mock round with a parent or friend as judge. Review and set goals.

- ☐ Weeks 1 to 3: I can explain the format and my case.
- ☐ Weeks 4 to 6: I can answer questions without rambling.
- ☐ Weeks 7 to 8: I can compare impacts clearly.
- ☐ Weeks 9 to 10: I can complete a mock round and give myself feedback.

Want a plan built around your debater? Book a free consultation at the link below.

Built from public guidance: NSDA Public Forum event page (speechanddebate.org) · NSDA Debate Evidence Guide for Judges. Rules change by league and tournament, so always confirm against your tournament invitation and current league rules.

NOTES

Want a plan built around **your** debater?

Book a free consultation. The short intake takes about a minute and opens right away.

BOOK NOW →