
Speaking and Listening glossary



Accepted/taken/rejected/declined: words used by the speaker when offered a point of information to show whether they will allow the interruption.

Chairperson (or Speaker or Moderator): the person in charge of the debate who makes sure that everyone follows the rules and introduces the speakers.

Definition: the terms of the debate.

Floor debate (or audience debate): a period during or after the debate where the audience can share their views.

Motion (or Resolution): the topic which is to be debated. In many formats this is phrased "this house..." In reference to legislative houses.

Opposition (or negative): the side which disagrees with the motion.

Points of Information: a structured way of interrupting a speaker.

Proposition (or Affirmative or Government): the side which agrees with the motion.

Protected time: the period at the start and end of a speech where no points of information can be offered.

Rebuttal (or refutation): the responses made to the arguments on the other side.

Summary speeches (or reply speeches): the final speeches in each side which sum up the key issues in the debate.

Timekeeper: the person who keeps time and gives time signals.