

Student Congress Lexicon

Speech and Debate has its own language, and Student Congress in particular has a language that is used in round. These include some terms that apply to particular aspects of the round, and motions that are applicable to the procedures the round takes.

Agenda - The order in which the assembly will be debating the legislation (sometimes called the calendar)

Amendment - A proposed change to an item of legislation. This can only be done to specific wording, and can not alter the intent of the bill.

Authorship Speech - A speech given by the author of the bill about to be debated, lasting up to three (3) minutes, given in the form of a constructive. If this speech is given by someone other than the author of the bill, it is called a Sponsorship speech. This is followed by up to 2 minutes of questioning.

Bill - A piece of legislation that describes the details of how a policy would be enacted.

Docket - The name for the complete packet of Bills that are able to be debated at a tournament.

Floor - When a member of the Assembly has the full attention of everyone i.e. Congressman Smith has the floor.

Geography - This is a method for distributing evenly the order of speeches in a room. If there are multiple speakers attempting to debate on a bill, the order will be determined by 'geography,' so that no particular are of the room is at a disadvantage. This is only one method for distributing speakers.

Legislation - The name for the proposals written by the members in the room. This is both singular or plural. In the singular, each proposal can also be referred to as a 'bill' or a 'resolution.'

Presiding Officer - The student leader who runs the assembly by recognizing members to speak. Also referred to as the Chair, called the PO for short.

Questioning - period of time after each speech in which members are able to pose a query to the speaker who has recently finished advocating. Multiple Part questions are generally prohibited.

Recency - A method for distributing evenly the speakers, so that when multiple congressmen are hoping to speak, the congressman who has spoken *least recently* is the one that is chosen to present.

Resolution - Expression of conviction of a Bill, written in a methodical form.