

Forensics Lexicon

**Please note: This is a work in progress and is not even alphabetized yet. Please let us know if we're missing a term, we'd love to add it!

Break	<p>(<i>verb</i>) Means to 'break' out of the preliminary rounds, into the out rounds of a tournament. In forensics, breaking is good</p> <p>(<i>noun</i>) A 'break' is an advancement to an out-round</p>
Out Round	<p>(<i>noun</i>) Any round held after the preliminary rounds, consisting of the top-tier of the competitors in a tournament.</p>
OO	<p>(<i>noun</i>) The abbreviation for Original Oratory, an event consisting of speeches written by the competitor, and then performed. OOs can be persuasive, informative, inspirational or primarily entertaining in nature, and has a 10 minute time limit with a 30 second grace period.</p>
Internal Structure	<p>(<i>noun</i>) refers to how well an audience can follow a speech once it begins. In its most formal and basic sense, an internal structure is made up of a preview statement, transition statements, and a review statement</p>
Picket Fence	<p>(<i>noun</i>) refers to the ranks received by a student in rounds. This phrase means that a student took a '1' from all judges. Can refer to just preliminary rounds i.e. 'She picket fenced prelims.' Additionally, can be applied to the tournament in entirety i.e. 'Only one student picket fenced the day, that is clearly our champion.' A picket fence is a very good thing.</p>
Prelim Round	<p>(<i>noun</i>) The abbreviation for 'Preliminary Rounds'</p>
Power Protect	<p>(<i>noun</i>) A debate term that refers to how some preliminary rounds are set. In some tournaments, the initial out round in debate is 'power protected,' meaning that the first seed in the tournament (that debater with the best record) is debating the lowest seed still in the tournament (that debater that advanced with the lowest record)</p>
Power Paired	<p>(<i>noun</i>) A debate term that refers to the way in which some tournaments are paired in preliminary rounds. After the first two rounds, once debaters have a record of wins and loses, power paired schedules those debaters with the best records against each other, so that the variance in records maximizes after the third round. i.e. Those debaters with 2-0 records will debate each other in the third round, so that after the third round one debater will be 3-0 and the other debater will be 2-1. This helps the tab room understand the rankings before outrounds.</p>

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Tab Room	<i>(noun)</i> The abbreviation for ‘Tabulation Room,’ this is the place where all the results are tabulated and recorded.
Ballot Packet	<i>(noun)</i> The grouping of all the ballots written about a specific school at a tournament, usually placed in a folder or large envelope, so that the students may see where their judges thought they might be able to improve after the tournament concludes.
One Clap a.k.a. Forensics Clap	<i>(noun)</i> This refers to the standard to only clap once after the announcement of any student receiving 2nd or lower in any event. This is meant to be respectful to those students, while also keeping the awards ceremony moving at a respectable pace. Often, the 1st place recipient receives a standing ovation.
Judge’s Lounge	<i>(noun)</i> This is where the Judge’s are fed, and where they are encouraged to hang out when they are not judging, so that they are easy to find if the tab staff needs to ask them questions about their ballots or blocks.
Time Signals	<i>(noun)</i> Gestures/indicators given by the judge so the competitor can know the length of his/her speech/performance. The signals are traditionally given to indicate how much time is remaining from the maximum time for that event. (See also, “Two Down”). The judge and competitor should agree on what the “signal” means. When the speaker has reached the maximum time limit, it is generally indicated by a closed fist.
Two Down	<i>(noun)</i> An expression of a speaker’s preference in receiving time signals, indicating that he/she would like to know when the speech/performance is two minutes away from the maximum time, then one minute from the maximum time, 30 seconds from the maximum time and at the maximum time.
Squirrel Judge or simply ‘squirrel’	<i>(noun)</i> a single judge’s ranks differ significantly from the other judges in a round containing multiple judges.
Split	<i>(noun)</i> a term indicating that a single judge’s ranks differ significantly from the other judges in a round containing multiple judges. <i>(verb)</i> To take a wide range of ranks in a multiple judge room. I.e. “I split the final, I got a 1, 3, and 5.”

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Speaker's Triangle	<p>(<i>noun</i>) This is the physical walk that a speaker does during the average speech. In the speaker's triangle, the competitor tends to hit three different areas in the front of the room, one for each of the points in his or her speech. This creates an imaginary triangle, and gives a visual cue to the audience that the speaker is shifting into a new main point.</p>
AGD	<p>(<i>noun</i>) AGD is the shortened form of 'Attention Getting Device,' a term that refers to the lines that open a speech. This is intended to grasp the attention of the audience.</p>
Cutting	<p>(<i>noun</i>) The portion of a prose, play, or poem that is performed in round. Because so very few pieces of literature are already at the allotted length for competition, this refers to the fact that the piece is 'cut down' from its original length.</p>