

COMMON DEBATE TERMINOLOGY

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSE

The unnumbered clauses that describe the reason for the resolution and are amendable by friendly amendment only

OPERATIVE CLAUSE

The heart of the resolution that calls for action, are numbered, and are able to be amended by the council

FRIENDLY AMENDMENT

A change to the operative clause(s) that is presented to the author for acceptance

WRITTEN AMENDMENT

A change to the operative clause(s) that is presented to the council for acceptance

QUORUM

Met when $2/3$ of the council is present which is required to open debate

SERIES OF QUESTIONS

Permission must be granted to ask more than one question, and no more than three questions may be asked in a series

VETO

Power held by the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China to automatically fail a resolution by issuing a “no” vote

AUTHOR

One who originally writes and presents a resolution to the council

OWNERSHIP

The author retains ownership of the entire resolution until any part of the resolution is accepted by the council, and upon acceptance by the council ownership is transferred to the council

POINT OF ORDER

Interrupts the speaker when a member thinks that the rules of the council are being violated

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Interrupts the speaker when a member must address a personal issue

POINT OF CLARIFICATION

Interrupts a speaker when a member is unclear on a statement or issue in order for the President to give additional information about the issue in question

PREVIOUS QUESTION

Interrupts a speaker and is used to close debate and bring the resolution or written amendment to vote

RIGHT TO REPLY

Called immediately after a slanderous speech by another member delegate, the violated member can rebut the comments against their country or themselves with the discretion of the President

DIVISION OF QUESTION

If one of the clauses would cause the resolution as a whole to fail, the clauses are taken one at a time, briefly discussed, and voted upon

ROLL CALL VOTE

Vice President calls the roll and each member votes yes, no, pass or abstain—it is used for votes on amendments, resolutions, and divided clauses

VOTE BY ACCLAMATION

If there are no objections the motion passes

PLACARD VOTE

Votes are cast by raising ones placard

ABSTAIN

A member chooses not to cast a yes or no vote; only allowed in a roll call vote and not on procedural matters

PASS

A member chooses not to vote the first time around on a roll call vote