

The following topics are provided for use/distribution within your state. This suggested list is provided as a service. Feel free to add, delete, or alter items to suit your purposes – especially in light of day-to-day events. Please keep in mind that other states may closely regulate the distribution of these topics. Please refrain from any distribution of the topics outside your state or by means which may be accessed outside your state, including the Internet, during the month of November.

NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS
November 2013

Domestic

Easier Topics

1. Which political party is most harmed by the dispute over the government shut down?
2. Are problems with the implementation of Obamacare short term?
3. Is Sarah Palin still an important figure in American politics?
4. Will Janet Yellen be good for the Federal Reserve?
5. Should the United States keep its troops in Afghanistan beyond 2014?
6. Should members of the Tea Party form a third political party?
7. Can America's welfare system be simplified?
8. Who is best positioned to succeed Rick Perry as governor of Texas?
9. How much will the new New York mayor depart from the legacy of Michael Bloomberg?
10. Is prescription drug abuse a bigger problem than drugs like cocaine and heroin?
11. Should American educators be worried about level or declining SAT scores?
12. Should schools be responsible for policing student social media accounts?
13. Should the United States ease its sanctions against Iran?

More Difficult Topics

1. Will later retirements by aging workers help or hurt the American economy?
2. Are Ted Cruz's political fortunes improving after his involvement in the federal budget battle?

3. Should the Supreme Court invalidate limits on large individual political campaign contributions?
4. Have there been any really lasting negative effects of the Edward Snowden security leaks?
5. In light of continued budgetary pressures, should the United States cut back on its aid to foreign governments?
6. Do recent U.S. strikes on targets in Libya and Somalia show American military strength or weakness?
7. Will social or economic issues dominate Republican primary contests in 2014 and 2016?
8. Are this year's cost of living adjustments for Social Security insufficient to meet the needs of the nation's elderly?
9. Has the hope for a resurgence in nuclear power in the United States died-out?
10. How will recent statements by Pope Francis impact the standing of the Catholic Church in the United States?
11. Does the recent shooting at the Washington, DC Naval Yard suggest that security at military facilities is not sufficient?
12. How has the government shutdown impacted the U.S. military?

International

Easier Topics

1. Will renewed dialog between the U.S. and Iran lead to a settlement over Iran's nuclear program?
2. Can the United Nations trust Syria's cooperation on its chemical weapons dismantlement deal?
3. Is Kim Jong Un better or worse for the people of North Korea than his father?
4. Is al-Qaeda making a resurgence in Iraq?
5. Should the Ukraine provide a pardon for Yulia Tymoshenko, as European diplomats are urging?
6. Is the Eurozone making a recovery?
7. Is Libya's new government becoming unstable?

8. Is Ed Miliband moving Britain's Labour Party too far to the left?
9. Is the National Front entering France's political mainstream?
10. Should Germany's Greens form a coalition with Angela Merkel's Christian Democrats?
11. Has India's Congress Party undermined its own future electoral prospects?
12. Is Afghanistan equipped to mount free and fair elections?
13. Was fraud committed on Malaysia's most recent elections?

More Difficult Topics

1. Will China's new Aged Care Law improve the well-being of China's elderly?
2. Is the Chinese government legitimately threatened by separatist movements in its autonomous provinces?
3. Is widespread praise for Malala Yousafzai justified?
4. Will the terrorist attack on a Nairobi shopping mall lead to a renewed international effort to eliminate the threat from al Shabaab?
5. Has the dispute over Syria strengthened or weakened U.S. relations with Russia?
6. Is the Spanish government taking the right steps to restore its economy?
7. What steps does the government of Myanmar need to take to achieve peace with separatist Muslim groups?
8. What should the Australian government do to improve relations with neighboring Pacific nations?
9. Has Nursultan Nazarbayev's long presidency in Kazakhstan helped or hurt the nation's rise?
10. Will the expansion of regional free trade agreements to include Taiwan speed the pace toward reunification with China?
11. Should Nicaragua pursue the construction of a canal linking the Atlantic and Pacific?
12. Can Nicolas Maduro reform Venezuela while still staying true to the revolutionary principles of Hugo Chavez?