

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 October.

NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS
October 2013

Domestic

Easier Topics

1. Can President Obama succeed in producing significant gun control legislation?
2. Can Congress succeed in delaying the implementation of key provisions of Obamacare?
3. Can the Obama administration succeed with its efforts to limit carbon emissions?
4. How will Congress' recent cuts in the food stamp program impact the American poor?
5. Should the FAA change its regulations governing use of electronic devices on airplanes?
6. Who should President Obama pick as the next Chair of the Federal Reserve Board?
7. Have recent scandals undermined the credibility of the NSA?
8. Is Obamacare resulting in a loss of jobs?
9. Should the EPA impose tougher restrictions on coal-fired power plants?
10. Is Blackberry on its last leg?
11. Should the United States government invest more funds in bridge and road repairs?
12. Who is likely to win the New York City mayoral contest?
13. Are published college rankings bad for higher education?

More Difficult Topics

1. Has the Obama administration's decision not to pursue military action against Syria undermined American credibility on the world stage?
2. What steps can be taken to decrease the rate of suicides in the U.S. military?
3. Will the iPhone 5s and 5c lift Apple's bottom line?
4. How are leaks about American espionage and intelligence activity against its partners and allies impacting American credibility abroad?
5. What steps can the United States take to thwart industrial espionage by China?
6. Will California's expanded rights for non-citizens become a model for other states to adopt?
7. Is there a way for America to simplify its welfare system?
8. What steps can be taken to combat the problem of prison overcrowding?
9. Will Detroit emerge from bankruptcy a better city?
10. Should the federal government enforce marijuana laws in states that have legalized the drug for recreational use?
11. Should the United States military extend benefits to same sex couples?
12. Are states ready to effectively implement insurance exchanges under Obamacare?

International

Easier Topics

1. Is Al Shabaab emerging as a wider regional threat in eastern Africa?
2. Will Iran's new president make good on his overtures for talks with the United States?
3. Is Pakistan taking sufficient steps to protect religious minorities within its borders?
4. Did the Kenyan government mishandle its response to the mall siege in Nairobi?
5. Can the opposition coalition in Syria become a viable alternative for the Assad regime?
6. Has the government of Mali finally defeated jihadist forces?

7. Will Russia's recently adopted anti-gay law imperil its upcoming role as Olympics host?
8. Can the world trust Syria to meet its commitments with respect to chemical weapons?
9. Should Israel fear American overtures to Iran?
10. What will be the outcome of widespread protests in Bulgaria?
11. Should Poland have more say in the governance of NATO?
12. Is North Korea more aggressively pursuing its nuclear program?
13. Was Tokyo a good choice for the 2020 Olympics?

More Difficult Topics

1. What do Angela Merkel's recent electoral successes say about German public's policy priorities?
2. Can the Communist Party of China convince a skeptical public that it is serious about combating corruption?
3. Is existing international law governing the production, use and distribution of chemical weapons sufficient?
4. Will increasing oil production in Libya help the rocky new government get on its feet?
5. How will Egypt's decision to limit the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood impact the nation's stability?
6. What will be the impact of recent moderate political statements by Pope Francis on the reach of global Catholicism?
7. Are Tamil citizens regaining political clout in post-civil war Sri Lanka?
8. Is Greece beginning to get its financial house in order?
9. Should China slow down the pace of its dam building?
10. Is China's economic influence in Asia eclipsing that of Russia?
11. Is the Indian government doing enough to curtail widespread sexual violence in that country?
12. What can be done to spur the growth of the agricultural industry in Africa?