

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 April.

NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS
April 2009

Domestic

Easier Topics

1. Will Kathleen Sebelius make a good Secretary of Health and Human Services?
2. Will Gary Locke succeed in his new role as Secretary of Commerce?
3. Are businesses over-reacting to people's peanut allergies?
4. What steps can school districts take to help keep homeless children in school?
5. Who is the leader of the GOP?
6. Was the decision to lift the ban on photographing the return of military coffins appropriate?
7. Are President Obama's failed cabinet nominations undermining his credibility?
8. Should the federal government have a larger say in how public schools are run?
9. Will the decision to extend voting rights in Congress to Washington, DC, pass constitutional scrutiny?
10. Should the United States eliminate elections for judicial offices?
11. Can the President's promise to increase the nation's food safety be fulfilled?
12. Is the Republican Party finding increased unity in the political opposition?
13. What is the significance of the federal government's dropping of the term "enemy combatant" in reference to Guantanamo Bay detainees?

More Difficult

1. Were Republican governors who rejected federal stimulus money prudent in their decision?

2. Should President Obama use positive or negative language to describe the state of the U.S. economy?
3. Can President Obama succeed with his goal of reducing the budget deficit over the next several years?
4. What does the Bernie Madoff scandal tell us about the strength of government regulation of the securities industry?
5. Was President Obama's reversal of federal stem cell research policies necessary?
6. Does President Obama more resemble Abraham Lincoln or Franklin Roosevelt?
7. What can the United States learn from Japan about the path to economic recovery?
8. Can TV personalities providing financial advice be trusted?
9. Is a "cap and trade" system an effective way to combat global warming?
10. Do the associated costs offer a new justification for eliminating the death penalty?
11. With the price of oil declining, should America slow down its efforts to tap other oil resources?
12. Will the new movement to split California into two states succeed?

International

Easier Topics

1. Is the nuclear threat from Iran growing more potent?
2. Will Benjamin Netanyahu continue or end peace talks with the Palestinian government?
3. Should Switzerland change its banking rules?
4. Is Northern Ireland on the verge of tipping back into sectarian conflict?
5. Should Pakistan's president restore to office judges that were removed by his predecessor?
6. Should the United States fear increased confrontation with the Chinese navy?
7. Is the current economic crisis global in nature?
8. Is Africa an attractive location for new businesses?

9. Can the United States pressure Iran out of developing nuclear weapons?
10. Can President Obama's strategy for securing Afghanistan succeed?
11. Can the International Criminal Court bring Omar al-Bashir to justice?
12. Is Venezuela's socialism becoming more pronounced?
13. Is the re-election of Indonesia's president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono assured?

More Difficult

1. What are the prospects for the United States regaining basing rights in Kyrgyzstan?
2. Should the Dalai Lama declare his support for the outright independence of Tibet?
3. Will the recent car accident, involving Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and his wife, further destabilize the power sharing arrangement in Zimbabwe?
4. Will Asian economies be more severely hurt by the global economic slowdown than the United States?
5. What steps can be taken to lessen the threat by Mexican drug cartels on American border towns?
6. Do changes in senior positions in the Cuban government suggest a more moderate stance by Raul Castro's regime?
7. Will recent attacks on the Sri Lankan cricket team force the Pakistani government to tighten its grip on militants?
8. Should the European Union reconsider its decision not to provide aid to struggling Eastern European economies?
9. Is Denmark a model for "greening" a nation's economy?
10. What can be done to stem the kidnappings of Hmong women in Vietnam?
11. Should the United States be preparing for war on the Korean peninsula?
12. What kind of leadership role can Arab leaders play in bringing peace to the Middle East?