

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 December.

**NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS
December 2008**

Domestic

1. Were the Democrats wise to forgive Joe Lieberman for his support of John McCain?
2. Should the federal government take responsibility for rescuing the U.S. auto industry?
3. How will Barak Obama's election change the face of the U.S. Supreme Court?
4. Should Congress adopt a second economic stimulus package?
5. Should the United States boost the amount of ethanol used in its fuel?
6. Should Barak Obama close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay?
7. Should Barak Obama include high profile Republicans in his cabinet?
8. Is Governor Sarah Palin a good prospect for the 2012 Republican Presidential nomination?
9. Should elementary school children be required to take physical education classes on a daily basis?
10. Can the new Congress bring an end to partisanship?
11. Should the federal government offer assistance to cities and states with budget deficits?
12. What role will Michelle Obama play in the new Obama administration?
13. What is John McCain's future role in American politics?

More Difficult Topics

1. How will the recent decline in consumer prices impact the American economy?
2. Is Nebraska's child abandonment law good or bad for children?

3. Would bankruptcy be good for General Motors?
4. Will California courts overturn Proposition 8's verdict on same-sex marriage?
5. Will President-elect Obama succeed in his plans to overturn the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy?
6. Are the parallels between Barak Obama and Abraham Lincoln over-exaggerated?
7. What does the Republican Party need to do to bounce back from its losses in the recent election?
8. Should President Bush pardon Scooter Libby?
9. Should President-elect Obama cancel President Bush's missile defense plans for Europe upon assuming office?
10. Does the massive spending of the 2008 Presidential campaign suggest further campaign finance reform is needed?
11. How will Obama's new Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, shape the administration's agenda?
12. How will the decline in oil prices impact the US economic recovery?

International

Easier Topics

1. Who should take responsibility for combating piracy off the Somali coast?
2. Can the United Nations bring about a durable cease fire in the Congo?
3. Is Democracy in Nicaragua in jeopardy?
4. How will the election of the National Party in New Zealand change the country's politics?
5. Is Mexico's commitment to fighting the war on drugs increasing?
6. Is complete nuclear disarmament in the 21st century a realistic goal?
7. Are recent talks between China and Taiwan an indication that reunification is closer?
8. Is Najib Razak fit to serve as Malaysia's new Prime Minister?
9. Will Congo's civil war spill-over into neighboring countries?

10. Can Hamas and Fatah reconcile the differences among Palestinians?
11. Who will be the likely victor in Israel's upcoming elections?
12. Is Bosnia in danger of breaking-up?
13. Are German relations with the United States improving?

More Difficult Topics

1. Will Iraq's three-year security agreement with the United States be enough to secure Iraq against violence?
2. Will the opening of an FDA branch in China help alleviate concerns about the safety of food imports?
3. Should the United States fear improving ties between China and Cuba?
4. What steps can the international community take to prevent conflict over territory in the arctic?
5. Will China's economic stimulus plan prevent a dangerous drop in economic growth?
6. Was the G-20 summit a success in calming fears of a global economic meltdown?
7. Will Hamid Karzai's bid to start negotiations with the Taliban succeed?
8. Will an Obama presidency calm Latin America's recent anti-American rhetoric?
9. What can the United States do to mend strained relations with Bolivia?
10. What can the international community do to strengthen controls on nuclear material?
11. Will Bhutan's new king maintain his country's march toward democracy?
12. Is France's Nicholas Sarkozy secretly a socialist?