

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 February.

NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS
February 2009

Domestic

Easier Topics

1. Should school districts provide cash incentives to students who earn good grades?
2. Can President Obama's new Treasury Secretary lead America out of its recession?
3. What will be President George W. Bush's lasting legacy?
4. Should the federal bailout of the automobile industry be expanded?
5. Was Leon Panetta a poor choice for Director of the CIA?
6. Should auto companies invest significant money in the development of electric cars?
7. Can the federal government maintain its current level of deficit spending?
8. Will U.S. airlines be able to improve their profitability in 2009?
9. Who is most responsible for America's recession?
10. Can President Obama afford to cut taxes this year?
11. Should President Obama increase spending on national defense?
12. Can America expect a rapid withdrawal of troops from Iraq as President Obama takes office?
13. Can bipartisanship prevail in the new Congress?

More Difficult

1. Can Apple computer continue its success without Steve Jobs?
2. What steps can government take to help facilitate the safe disposal of America's e-waste?

3. What can health officials do to help combat the rising number of sexually transmitted disease cases in the United States?
4. With the economy in shambles, can the United States afford health care reform?
5. What impact will the declining U.S. economy have on illegal immigration?
6. Will the weak economy help or hurt President Obama's popularity in the early months of his presidency?
7. Was President Obama's choice of CNN commentator, Sanjay Gupta, to serve as Surgeon General a good one?
8. How can government help to reduce high rates of unemployment in the United States?
9. Should the current system of unemployment benefits be reformed?
10. Should President Obama limit his support for the struggling domestic coal industry?
11. Will President Obama's economic stimulus plan help reverse the economic downturn?
12. Who will prevail in the legal struggle over Minnesota's contested Senate seat?

International

Easier Topics

1. Can Israel and Hamas agree to a lasting cease fire in Gaza?
2. Does Pakistan's government share responsibility for the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India?
3. Can Russia and Ukraine resolve their conflict over oil and gas supplies?
4. Will the drop in oil prices weaken Hugo Chavez's government?
5. Should the President of Sudan be tried for war crimes?
6. Should Colombia's President Uribe run for a third term?
7. Is China's government serious about reforming land ownership laws?
8. Will radical Islamic groups regain control of Somalia?
9. Is Iraq prepared to regain complete sovereignty over its territory?

10. Will there be a change in leadership in Iran's upcoming presidential elections?
11. Can Israel reduce civilian casualties in its conflict with Hamas?
12. Is the Sunni-Shiite divide in Iraq becoming less significant?
13. Will the Liberal Democratic Party lose Japan's upcoming elections?

More Difficult

1. Can Israel maintain its identity as a Jewish state?
2. Will Ethiopia's withdrawal help or hurt Somalia's political stability?
3. What can the western world learn from China in trying to restart economic growth?
4. Should NATO increase its anti-drug efforts in Afghanistan?
5. Is Sri Lanka's government nearing a defeat of the Tamil Tigers?
6. Will South Africa's Jacob Zuma be able to defeat charges of corruption lodged against him?
7. How will substantially increased Internet use change the life of people in China?
8. 50 years after the Cuban revolution, are there any signs that Communism is loosening its grip on the island?
9. Will President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's party prevail in upcoming Indonesian elections?
10. Is Ghana's recent election an example for successful African democracy?
11. Can Montenegro's economy resist collapse?
12. Will Britain's Liberal Democrats decide who controls parliament after the next election?