

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 March.

**NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS**  
**March 2009**

**Domestic**

*Easier Topics*

1. What can the Obama administration do to help ensure the solvency of American banks?
2. Is Larry Summers the right man to solve America's financial crisis?
3. Is it time to end the Social Security program?
4. Is government-mandated universal healthcare the solution to America's health care woes?
5. Can Robert Gates curb the Defense Department's appetite for spending?
6. Should Roland Burris resign from the U.S. Senate?
7. Should Senate vacancies be filled only by special elections?
8. Should the United States reform the way in which it conducts the census?
9. Is Bobby Jindal the new hope for the Republican Party?
10. Can President Obama cut the budget deficit while spending to support the economy?
11. Should the Obama administration loosen restrictions on stem cell research?
12. How influential will Michelle Obama be in her husband's administration?
13. Can the President's plan to stem home foreclosures bring an end to the housing crisis?

*More Difficult*

1. Should governments stop mandating the vaccination of children?
2. What can high schools do to minimize risk for their students who play sports?

3. Is the United States moving too quickly toward the digital conversion of television and radio?
4. Should the federal government be encouraging consumers to save or spend?
5. Who deserves most of the blame for America's financial crisis?
6. What impact will the budget crisis in the states have upon the educational system?
7. Should the California Supreme Court overturn the controversial measure, Proposition 8?
8. Was Tom Daschle right to withdraw his nomination as Secretary of Health and Human Services?
9. Is the American newspaper industry doomed?
10. Should America consider the creation of a "Truth Commission" to uncover the facts about alleged legal abuses by the Bush Administration?
11. Does Hillary Clinton's first trip abroad point to a successful term for the new Secretary of State?
12. Will the Republican Party's stance on the economic stimulus plan hurt support for the party among voters?

### **International**

#### *Easier Topics*

1. Will the International Criminal Court help to reduce human rights violations by the world's governments?
2. Was Israel's response to the threat from Gaza excessive?
3. Should the international community intervene to restore order in the Democratic Republic of the Congo?
4. Can Mohammed Khatami make a successful comeback to Iran's Presidency?
5. Should the United States open a dialog with Iran?
6. Can Russia's economy survive the drop in global oil prices?
7. Is Daniel Ortega moving Nicaragua toward dictatorship?
8. Can Zimbabwe's new unity government succeed in bringing stability to the country?
9. Will Gordon Brown lose the next British election?

10. Will the election of a right-wing government in Israel result in the end of peace negotiations with the Palestinians?
11. How will France's re-integration in NATO help the alliance?
12. Can Palestinians unite behind a common government?
13. Should the group of Chinese Muslims being held at Guantanamo Bay be released?

*More Difficult*

1. Are Afghanistan's warlords a threat to the U.S. troops there?
2. Can the United States and China work together to fight climate change?
3. Is Sri Lanka going to succeed in defeating the Tamil Tigers?
4. Will the loss of jobs by China's migrant workers destabilize the country?
5. Can Muammar Gaddafi succeed in creating a United States of Africa?
6. What steps can the world community take to defend against the growing threat from space debris?
7. What can the United States do to prevent Pakistan from becoming a failed state?
8. Will the end of presidential term limits in Venezuela cause Hugo Chavez to stay in power indefinitely?
9. Will Cambodia's trial of former Khmer Rouge leaders result in justice for the victims?
10. Will King Abdullah's recent reforms result in greater political freedom in Saudi Arabia?
11. Will improved relations between Turkey and Iraq's Kurds result in improved conditions for Turkey's Kurdish population?
12. Should tourism in the Antarctic be limited?