

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 May.

NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS
May 2009

Domestic

Easier Topics

1. Can perpetrators of mortgage scams be brought to justice?
2. Are Robert Gates' plans to retool the defense budget prudent?
3. Is the U.S. power grid vulnerable to terrorist attack?
4. Should the United States build a high-speed rail system?
5. Is the threat from right wing extremist groups in the United States exaggerated?
6. Will the emerging "Green Economy" truly provide Americans with needed jobs?
7. Should the Obama administration increase restrictions on assault weapons?
8. Are Americans losing confidence in the President's approach to the economy?
9. Should the federal government reform ethics rules for government employees?
10. Will immigration reform succeed in 2009?
11. Was the federal government's response to this year's Midwestern floods sufficient?
12. Should the United States extradite John Demjanjuk?
13. Is Sarah Palin's importance to the Republican Party in decline?

More Difficult

1. Is the threat by some Texas politicians to secede from the Union a serious one?
2. Does the release of Bush administration memos justifying acts of torture suggest the need for a criminal investigation of the policy?

3. Should American businesses that received money under the federal bailout give up ownership of sports arenas and stadiums?
4. What makes Democrats and Republicans in the United States unique?
5. Is it a mistake for the Attorney General to release Bush-era security memos?
6. Is Nancy Pelosi a thorn in President Obama's side?
7. Should the digitizing of medical information be resisted or embraced?
8. Will the sudden increase in states approving gay marriage change the course of federal attitudes toward the idea?
9. Does the increasing size of America's prison populations suggest the need to rethink our drug laws?
10. Will the anti-tax movement, revived by the April 15 "Tea Party" protests, pose a significant challenge to the Obama administration?
11. Are troubled US banks on the mend?
12. Will first time home buyers provide the housing market its needed stimulus?

International

Easier Topics

1. Are alleged assassination plots against Bolivia's Evo Morales an indication of coming civil strife in the country?
2. Can anything other than a two-state solution work for the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians?
3. Should China fear violence on the anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre?
4. Should the United States take military action to stop piracy in the Indian Ocean?
5. Should the Thai government resign?
6. Is Jacob Zuma ready to lead South Africa and the ANC?
7. Should the United States rethink its relationship with the government in Ethiopia?
8. Should the United States return Guantanamo Bay to Cuban sovereignty?
9. What should be the focus of the NATO alliance?

10. Can Rahul Gandhi revive his family's ruling dynasty in Indian general elections?
11. Is there a risk that conflict may again break out in Bosnia?
12. Can North Korea be induced to return to the Six-Party talks?
13. Has Russia now established complete control over Chechnya?

More Difficult

1. Can the United States successfully influence the Iraqi government to end the practice of torture in their country?
2. Are the Ukrainian and Russian governments doing enough to help migrating Crimean Tatars?
3. Will increased Chinese tourism in Taiwan thaw chilly relations between the island and the mainland?
4. Can African governments do more to reduce acts of piracy along their shores?
5. What can the international community do to curb the global water shortage?
6. Is the threat from Chinese cyber warfare significant?
7. What should the United States do to help Mexico with its drug war?
8. Can the Pakistani government break links between the Taliban movements in Afghanistan and Pakistan?
9. Can Egypt succeed in reducing the influence of Hizbullah on militants within its borders?
10. What steps can be taken to improve Israel's electoral system?
11. What are the prospects for Croatia becoming an EU member in the next few years?
12. Will the plan, devised by several European countries, to significantly lower the cost of malaria drugs, succeed in bringing the disease under control?