

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 2008

Domestic

Less Difficult

1. Can unity in the Democratic Party be achieved?
2. How serious is the threat posed by pharmaceuticals in the American water supply?
3. Who would make the best running-mate for John McCain?
4. Should Clinton and Obama form a joint ticket?
5. Can rising gas prices be contained?
6. Can the United States avoid tipping into a recession?
7. Should the US military increase the budget of the Air Force?
8. Should America loosen control of the border with Canada?
9. Should the Democratic Party seat delegates from Michigan and Florida at the national convention?
10. Can Congress succeed in its efforts to make higher education more affordable?
11. What can the federal government do to stem increasing unemployment?
12. Should public schools be allowed to segregate along gender lines?
13. Should government figures be held to higher ethical standards than the average citizen?

More Difficult

1. Will the Southern Baptist Convention's new declaration on global warming alter public attitudes about climate change?
2. Should parents of home schooled children be required to hold a teaching degree?

3. Will the retirement of the stealth fighter help or hurt America's military readiness?
4. Will President Bush's endorsement help or hurt John McCain in the general election?
5. Should the federal government place restrictions on the cultivation of the hallucinogenic plant, salvia?
6. What role will comedy television programs, like Saturday Night Live and The Daily Show, have in the 2008 campaign?
7. Will Barak Obama's ties to Tony Rezko hurt his candidacy?
8. Are public opinion polls an unreliable predictor of success in American elections?
9. Should phone companies that aided in illegal wiretaps by the government be immune from prosecution?
10. Was the decision by the Air Force to grant a major aircraft contract to Europe's Airbus a mistake?
11. Should states reconsider imposing mandatory life prison sentences for juvenile offenders?
12. How important are religious conservatives?

International

Less Difficult

1. Should Serbia proceed with efforts to join the European Union?
2. Is Iran's Ahmadinejad losing popularity in his own country?
3. Should Israel stop plans to expand settlements in the West Bank?
4. Should China relax its one-child policy?
5. Should the United States boycott the Beijing Olympics?
6. Should Americans refuse to purchase gems from Burma?
7. Will Kenya's power-sharing agreement restore peace to the country?
8. Will Raul Castro bring significant change as Cuba's leader?
9. Is Somalia's government in danger of being overthrown?

10. Will Turkey's invasion of northern Iraq succeed in eliminating the threat from Kurdish terrorists?
11. Is Dimitri Medvedev a clone of Valdimir Putin?
12. Has the conflict in Iraq turned into a stalemate?
13. Should the United States proceed with plans to install a missile shield on Polish soil?

More Difficult

1. Will an alliance of Pakistani opposition parties succeed in removing President Musharraf from power?
2. What steps can be taken to reduce tensions between Colombia and Venezuela?
3. Can Spain's Prime Minister make good on his campaign promises for social reform?
4. Should the Israeli government heed calls to start negotiations with Hamas?
5. Can American antidrug plans succeed in curbing Afghanistan's surging opium production?
6. Is China using recently alleged terror plots to justify a crackdown on dissenting minority groups?
7. What can be done to further limit the activity of FARC rebels operating in Ecuador?
8. Will Thailand's former prime minister, Thaksin Shinawatra, succeed in clearing his name of corruption charges?
9. Should the United Nations police what countries gain access to nuclear technology?
10. Should America's neighbors rely on her to meet her obligations under the NAFTA treaty?
11. Is renewed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan a realistic possibility?
12. How will significant electoral gains by opposition parties in Malaysia change that country's politics?