

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 2008**

#### **Domestic**

#### **Less Difficult**

1. What can be done to make the airline industry more consumer-friendly?
2. Should “texting” while driving be outlawed?
3. How are the spouses of presidential contenders impacting the candidates’ campaigns?
4. Is the United States succeeding in making voting machines more reliable?
5. How big of an impact is the Internet having on presidential politics?
6. How will increases in the cost of diesel fuel impact the U.S. economy?
7. Are public smoking bans good public policy?
8. Should the incomes of presidential candidates be an issue in the campaign?
9. Is it time for Hillary Clinton to concede the Democratic race?
10. Can the McCain campaign compete with Democrats in the fundraising game?
11. Has the federal government done enough to address drought conditions in the southeastern states?
12. Can America continue to afford the cost of its troops in Iraq and Afghanistan?
13. Should the Federal Reserve Board be granted more regulatory power over the American economy?

#### **More Difficult**

1. Should the federal government create a cabinet level post of “Poverty Czar”?
2. Would a merger deal between Delta and Northwest Airlines help or hurt airline customers?

3. What steps can government take to promote the use of mass transit in the United States?
4. Are judicial elections in the United States too politicized?
5. Was the Supreme Court decision to uphold the constitutionality of death penalty by lethal injection sound?
6. Can new greenhouse gas emissions goals set by the Bush administration be met by polluters?
7. Should the federal government step-in to protect victims of mortgage foreclosures?
8. Is America's crackdown on illegal immigration having a negative impact on the US economy?
9. Will Detroit's mayor survive the growing scandal surrounding him?
10. How would an Obama presidency impact America's image abroad?
11. How are state budget crises impacting America's economic woes?
12. Will the recent impact of the Pope have an influence on Catholic voters and their decisions in this year's election?

### **International**

#### **Less Difficult**

1. What can Gordon Brown do to improve his standing in British public opinion polls?
2. What does electoral victory for the Maoist party mean for the future of Nepal?
3. Will Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe bow to international pressure?
4. Will Chinese authorities succeed in curbing pollution before the Olympic games?
5. Can Silvio Berlusconi tackle Italy's economic woes?
6. Can Pervez Musharraf withstand efforts to oust him from power?
7. Should the United States establish a free trade pact with Colombia?
8. Should the United States engage in talks with representatives of Hamas?
9. Was NATO right in delaying membership for the Ukraine and Georgia?

10. Should the United States proceed with plans to train the Pakistani military?
11. Should Haiti's prime minister answer calls by the opposition to resign?
12. Should the United States military establish an African Command?
13. How far should the NATO alliance expand?

### **More Difficult**

1. Are U.S. media reports critical of China's rule in Tibet fueling Chinese nationalism?
2. How will Venezuela's decision to increase taxes on crude oil impact the cost of fuel?
3. What steps can the Iraqi government take to curb the influence of Shiite cleric Moqtada al Sadr?
4. What can the United States do to gain diplomatic leverage in Iran?
5. How will the election of Ma Ying-jeou to Taiwan's presidency impact relations between Taiwan and China?
6. Can negotiators in Bali succeed in crafting a treaty to replace the Kyoto Protocol on climate change?
7. What steps can be taken to limit deforestation in Mozambique?
8. What can be done to get more humanitarian aid to the people of Somalia?
9. What can be done to combat violence by drug cartels in Mexico?
10. Is ecotourism the key to saving South America's rainforests?
11. Would Hugo Chavez's plans to nationalize Venezuela's steel and cement industry help or hurt the economy there?
12. How would the United States benefit from improved relations with Ethiopia?