

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 October.

NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS
October 2008

Domestic

Easier Topics

1. Can Sarah Palin's candidacy help bring Hillary Clinton supporters to McCain's side?
2. Which Presidential campaign benefits the most from the troubled economy?
3. Has FEMA's response to this year's hurricanes been adequate?
4. Can Congress reach a workable compromise on off-shore oil drilling?
5. Should the federal government take steps to regulate the use of high fructose corn syrup in foods?
6. Can Presidential candidates fairly promise to stop pork barrel spending?
7. Will the Chevy Volt be a commercial success?
8. Should Congress adopt a second economic stimulus package?
9. Should communities devastated by recent hurricanes rebuild?
10. How significant a role should celebrities play in Presidential politics?
11. How should government leaders define poverty?
12. Should text messaging by drivers be banned?
13. Should government heed calls by several University professors to lower the legal drinking age?

More Difficult Topics

1. Will recent federal interventions to bail out struggling financial firms bring stability back to the economy?

2. Will the ethics investigation of Sarah Palin undermine the McCain candidacy?
3. What can Congress do to promote the increased use of wind energy?
4. Can increased oil drilling in the Arctic help reduce gas prices in the United States?
5. Should American colleges and universities expand the number of ROTC programs available to students?
6. Should the ethics investigation of Sarah Palin be postponed until after the completion of the Presidential election?
7. Which Presidential campaign is doing a better job of capitalizing on the concept of “change”?
8. Should the federal government use taxpayer money to rescue struggling banks and investment firms?
9. What states will play the most important role in the outcome of the presidential election?
10. Did the Army Corps of Engineers do enough to prepare the gulf coast for the effects of this fall’s hurricanes?
11. Will state-level ballot initiatives affect the turnout in the November elections?
12. Have voting machines been improved enough to ensure fair elections this fall?

International

Easier Topics

1. Is Al Qaeda regaining strength?
2. Can Tzipi Livni succeed in completing Israeli negotiations with the Palestinians?
3. Will Russia’s continued support for Abkhazia and South Ossetia result in renewed conflict with Georgia?
4. Will the collapse of Ukraine’s “Orange Coalition” result in resurgence of pro-Russian opposition parties?
5. Has North Korea’s nuclear program become a renewed threat?
6. Should the United States military restrict border crossings into Pakistan in search of terrorists?

7. Is Bolivia on the verge of civil war?
8. Can feuding parties in Zimbabwe make a power sharing deal work?
9. Should Russia's neighbors fear it?
10. Is Iran softening its stance toward Israel?
11. Is Brazil becoming an economic superpower?
12. Is the world entering a food supply crisis?
13. Should the United States fear Russian military maneuvers with Venezuela?

More Difficult Topics

1. What can the United States do to improve relations with Pakistan's new government?
2. Can Jacob Zuma survive corruption charges to become South Africa's next president?
3. As Ray Odierno succeeds David Petraeus as the American general in charge of US forces in Iraq, what are the main challenges he faces?
4. Will the selection of Somchai Wongsawat as Prime Minister bring stability to Thailand's government?
5. What steps can NATO troops take to weaken the growth of Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan?
6. What can be done to loosen Hezbollah's grip on Lebanon?
7. Is the rebellion in the oil-rich Niger delta a serious threat to the stability of the Nigerian government?
8. As it moves toward eventual withdrawal from Iraq, what should the United States do with the 15,000 detained insurgents in its care?
9. What steps can be taken to reverse the world's water shortage?
10. Can Greek and Turkish governments in Cyprus resolve their long-standing dispute?
11. Is anti-Americanism expanding in Latin America?
12. Can Tara Aso restore public confidence in Japan's Liberal Democratic Party?