

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 2007**

Domestic

Easier Topics

1. Are Republicans deserting President Bush?
2. Was General David Petraeus' assessment of progress in Iraq cause for optimism or pessimism?
3. Has John McCain's campaign found new life?
4. Has the iPhone lived up to its hype?
5. Is the GOP losing ground with Hispanic voters?
6. Should the development of nuclear power plants in the United States be encouraged?
7. Is Michael B. Mukasey a good choice for the next Attorney General?
8. How will the falling value of the dollar affect the average American?
9. Can Hillary Clinton's plan for health care reform work?
10. How significant a role will candidates' opinions about the war in Iraq play in voters' choice of Presidential nominees next year?
11. Is Fred Thompson meeting the high expectations set for his candidacy?
12. Has the American public lost faith in Congress?
13. What are the prospects for a third-party Presidential candidacy in 2008?

More Difficult Topics

1. How will recent retirements by key U.S. Senators impact the Congress?
2. Is merit pay for teachers an appropriate solution to problems in declining schools?
3. Is the U.S. economy bound for a recession?

4. Six years after the 9-11 attacks, is America a safer place today?
5. Should expanded public broadband Internet access become a national goal?
6. How will the decision of several TV networks to allow downloads of their shows impact the broadcasting industry?
7. Should Congress pass the Dream Act, giving children of illegal immigrants a path to citizenship?
8. Should Florida Democrats back-down on their plans to move their Presidential primary to January 29th?
9. What should government do to help stem the wave of home foreclosures in the United States?
10. Can John Edwards come from behind to mount a serious challenge to Clinton and Obama?
11. Is the trial of Warren Jeffs an infringement on religious freedom?
12. What steps can be taken to heal tensions created by the trial of the “Jena 6”?

International

Easier Topics

1. Has the world community finally halted North Korea’s nuclear program?
2. Has the United States made progress building positive relationships with Iraqi Sunnis?
3. Should the West fear a changing Russia?
4. Is war with Iran over its nuclear program likely?
5. Should Iraqi Kurdistan be granted independence?
6. Is Bangladesh making progress toward the end of military rule?
7. Is democracy blossoming in Morocco?
8. Can OPEC bring the global price of oil under control?
9. Should the United States extradite Manuel Noriega to France or Panama?
10. Is Viktor Zubkov the likely successor of Vladimir Putin as President of Russia?
11. Why have we failed to capture Osama bin Laden?

12. Should private security firms be permitted to operate in Iraq?

13. How is Hamas performing in its efforts to administer Gaza?

More Difficult Topics

1. How will Shinzo Abe's departure as Japanese prime minister impact the country's relations with its neighbors?
2. How will the deportation of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif impact public support for Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf?
3. Will Israel's recent incursion into Syrian airspace spark war between the neighbors?
4. Is Colombia's decision to let Hugo Chavez negotiate with the FARC guerrillas a mistake?
5. Should the United States drop its opposition to an independent Taiwan?
6. Has the World Bank outlived its usefulness?
7. What steps can the world community take to restrain China's use of cyberwarfare?
8. Will China be able to curb rising inflation?
9. Do recent political assassinations in Lebanon suggest a civil war is again looming?
10. Should NATO be expanded?
11. Should the United States change its policy on the use of private security firms overseas?
12. Will protests in Myanmar move the military government there toward expanding civil liberties?