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 December.

**NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS**

# December 2011

***Domestic***

*Easier Topics*

1. Is deregulation of business good for the economy?
2. Has the American Dream become less attainable for the average American?
3. Who is most responsible for the Penn State football scandal?
4. Will consumers continue to reject big banks in favor of credit unions?
5. Is America doing enough to prepare for the threat of near-earth asteroids and other space objects?
6. Do President Obama’s foreign policy successes matter to the American voter?
7. Is America doing enough to look after the needs of its soldiers after their service?
8. Has the “Occupy” movement lost focus, or gained it, as it has spread nationwide?
9. Can the federal government afford to lessen the burden on those with student loans?
10. Can flat taxes help the American economy?
11. Should America celebrate its complete withdrawal from Iraq?
12. Are family farms becoming a thing of the past?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. Have recent speaking gaffes by Governor Rick Perry imperiled his presidential candidacy?
2. Can Herman Cain survive the sexual harassment scandal that has consumed recent coverage of his presidential candidacy?
3. Will President Obama’s decision to delay construction of the Keystone XL pipeline until after the 2012 elections benefit him politically?
4. Does Ohio’s decision to reverse a law curbing collective bargaining rights signal growing political power by American unions?
5. Has President Obama been helped or hurt by the work of Timothy Geithner?
6. Has the Obama Administration applied its deportation policies consistently?
7. Can Congress’s “Super Committee” be expected to succeed in its deficit-cutting mission?
8. Who benefits most from Perry and Cain’s misfortunes in the presidential race?
9. How will shifting dates for Presidential primaries impact the overall contest?
10. Is the Keystone XL pipeline good for the United States?
11. How will the resignation of Dennis Ross impact the involvement of the United States in the Middle East peace process?
12. Is sexual harassment a problem in America’s schools?

## **International**

*Easier Topics*

1. Does the Arab League’s decision to sanction Syria have any real weight?
2. Is Kenya the right nation to bring stability to a troubled Somalia?
3. Is Israel likely to strike Iran’s nuclear facilities?
4. Should the United States be concerned about the re-election of Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua?
5. Is Democracy truly taking hold in Kyrgyzstan?
6. Will the death of Muammar Qaddafi further inspire Arab revolutionaries?
7. Should the West fear an Islamic movement emerging from Tunisia?
8. Is Jordan’s King Abdullah vulnerable to his own version of the Arab Spring?
9. Do the odds favor the Socialists in recapturing France’s presidency?
10. Can Ireland escape being caught-up in the Euro crisis?
11. Is declining Western influence in the Arab world a good thing?
12. Is the conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir cooling?
13. Can the ETA be trusted to stop terrorist attacks on Spain?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. Will recent austerity measures taken by Greece and Italy help restore stability to the Euro?
2. What will a post-Berlusconi Italy look like?
3. Is the United States’ involvement in the demise of the Qaddafi regime in Libya a model for future American interventions?
4. Will the protests of Tibetan monks help them achieve the freedom they desire for their people?
5. What can Argentina expect from Christina Fernandez in her next presidential term?
6. Are the world’s resources sufficient to handle a population at seven billion people?
7. Arg! Be the “Pirate Party” a legitimate force in German politics?
8. Should Britain’s Tories change their attitude toward a united Europe?
9. What can China do to address its food safety problems?
10. Is expanded free trade in the interest of Japanese industry?
11. Does the appointment of Prince Nayef as Crown Prince, signal a more conservative turn in the Saudi Arabian government?
12. Will Turkey’s eastern earthquakes help to unite Turks with their minority Kurdish population?