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 January.

**NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS**

# February 2013

***Domestic***

*Easier Topics*

1. Should the U.S. Senate ban the filibuster?
2. Has Congress avoided underlying problems in its move to avert the fiscal cliff?
3. Are electronic cigarettes the solution to tobacco addiction?
4. Does President Obama have any leverage to gain congressional support for his initiatives?
5. Is Chris Christie a viable Republican candidate for president in 2016?
6. Will the Newtown school shootings result in a significant change of American gun laws?
7. Will Chuck Hagel receive confirmation as Secretary of Defense?
8. Has the United States’ fiscal crisis been resolved?
9. Should Congress continue to raise the debt ceiling?
10. Should tanning beds be banned in the United States?
11. Is Jack Lew a worthy successor of Timothy Geithner as Treasury Secretary?
12. Is Vice-President Biden the right man to negotiate difficult agreements with Congress?
13. Can Al Jazeera succeed as the new owner of America’s Current TV?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. What steps should the federal government take to reform the tax system?
2. Can gun control advocates overcome the strength of the National Rifle Association to bring about changes in American gun laws?
3. Can the federal government help the economy by giving tax breaks on profits by U.S. companies operating overseas?
4. Should the Obama administration lessen its support for the government of Israel?
5. Is it time for the United States to have a centrist political party?
6. Can Boeing survive the crisis in confidence created by the problems with the Dreamliner?
7. Is inflation on the horizon for the U.S. economy?
8. What will President Obama’s top legislative priorities be in a second term?
9. What changes can the Republican Party make to enhance its success by the midterm elections?
10. Is President Obama signaling a desire to cooperate or compete with Republican leaders?
11. Will the Pentagon’s lifting of the ban on women in combat increase or decrease the recruitment of women to the military?
12. Will continued criticism of the State Department over the attacks on the Consulate in Benghazi tarnish Hillary Clinton’s reputation?

## **International**

*Easier Topics*

1. Is the Obama administration pursuing the right strategy with respect to Iran?
2. Is Burma’s Thein Sein the right man to bring Burma to full democracy?
3. Will Shinzo Abe bring Japan into greater conflict with China?
4. Is Pakistan on the verge of a military coup?
5. Is al Qaeda experiencing a resurgence in Africa?
6. Will Britain leave the European Union?
7. Will Russia back down on its strong support for Syria as the violence there worsens?
8. Will Kim Jung Un continue the nuclear provocations of his father?
9. Should the United States intervene in Mali?
10. Is Afghanistan ready for a withdrawal of NATO forces?
11. Can Turkey make peace with the PKK rebels?
12. Is Sri Lanka becoming a dictatorship?
13. Should Europe become more active in military intervention abroad?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. What steps can India’s government take to calm public tensions caused by high profile rapes?
2. What obstacles stand in the way of the worldwide eradication of polio?
3. Is France outgunned in its efforts to stop Islamists in West Africa?
4. What steps can China take to combat its serious air quality problems?
5. Will close election results cause Benjamin Netanyahu to bring right wing or centrist parties into his coalition?
6. How will Hugo Chavez’s prolonged illness effect the operations of government in Venezuela?
7. Will Germany’s Free Democratic Party lose its role as parliamentary kingmaker?
8. Can China be expected to safely expand its nuclear power industry?
9. Is Algeria in danger of becoming an Islamist stronghold?
10. Can a new parliament boost faith in Jordan’s King?
11. Does France’s president hold the confidence of his people?
12. Who will likely emerge as the Czech Republic’s next President?