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 November.

**NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS**

# November 2012

***Domestic***

*Easier Topics*

1. Should schools monitor the posts and tweets of their students?
2. Should corporal punishment be eliminated in those states that still permit it in schools?
3. Which political party now holds the greatest sway over Latino voters?
4. Are moderates being squeezed out of the American political process?
5. Should the federal government provide support for public radio and television?
6. Should the United States try to expand legal immigration?
7. Was the United States negligent in protecting its Consulate in Benghazi, Libya?
8. Will the 2012 elections change the perception of gridlock in Washington, DC?
9. Has the 2012 election season proven that social issues or economic issues are more important to voters?
10. Is the United States adequately prepared for foreign cyberattacks?
11. Has New York reached too far in its efforts to limit the availability of unhealthy foods?
12. Are new school lunch nutrition regulations unfair to the consumer?
13. Should the United States curtail the use of drone warfare?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. Can American workers anticipate growth in their wages anytime soon?
2. Should the process of conducting presidential debates be changed?
3. Are federal lawsuits against major American banks good or bad for the U.S. economy?
4. Has Tim Cook proven that Apple can survive without Steve Jobs?
5. What does the federal government need to do to avoid the “Fiscal Cliff”?
6. Is Mark Zuckerberg’s “Move fast, break things” philosophy a recipe for business success?
7. Should foreign citizens be allowed to sue multinational corporations in United States courts?
8. With the 2012 elections at their conclusion, is it time to consider new campaign finance reforms?
9. Should the United States Food and Drug Administration increase regulations on pharmaceutical compounding facilities?
10. Are “reverse mortgages” an abuse of the elderly?
11. Will Lance Armstrong’s recent troubles with blood-doping allegations undermine his charitable work?
12. Is the federal government doing enough to promote the development of electric cars?

## **International**

*Easier Topics*

1. What can the world expect from China’s new leadership team?
2. Is al Qaeda making a comeback?
3. Has Mahmoud Abbas been good for the cause of Palestinian statehood?
4. Who will be the likely winner in South Korea’s upcoming presidential election?
5. Has the conflict in Syria become a stalemate?
6. Do economic problems present an opportunity for reformers to gain power in Iran?
7. Is Benjamin Netanyahu likely to remain Prime Minister for an additional term?
8. Are extreme nationalists gaining a voice in Japan?
9. Should Malaysia’s Prime Minister, Najib Razak, call an early parliamentary election?
10. Can Saudi Arabia act to drive down the global price of oil?
11. Can Somalia’s fledgling government expand its zone of control?
12. Is war likely to break-out between Syria and Turkey?
13. Should China’s neighbors fear its new aircraft carrier?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. Despite his recent electoral win, is Hugo Chavez’s control over Venezuela slipping?
2. Will the change in parliamentary leadership in Georgia change relations between Georgia and the United States?
3. Will the recently proposed peace plan to end conflict between the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front succeed?
4. Is Julia Gillard losing her grip on power in the Australian parliament?
5. Is the Pakistani branch of the Taliban capturing the support of the Pakistani people?
6. Do China’s stock markets need reform?
7. What steps should King Abdullah take to calm the political crisis in Jordan?
8. What can the Eurozone do to keep Greece afloat?
9. Is Britain’s conservative party losing its common message?
10. Can Sudan and South Sudan reach a final accord that will bring peace along their border?
11. Is economic turmoil fueling a rise in right-wing extremism in Greece?
12. Can Libya curtail the strength of its militias?