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
December 2012

Domestic

Easier Topics

1. Will the President and Congress reach an agreement to avoid the "fiscal cliff?"

2. Are higher taxes in Americans' future?

3. If Hillary Clinton steps down as Secretary of State, as expected, who should be appointed to succeed her?

4. If Leon Panetta steps down as Secretary of Defense, as expected, who should be appointed to succeed him?

5. Who is the leading contender to carry the Democratic Party's standard in the 2016 presidential election?

6. Who is the leading contender to carry the Republican Party's standard in the 2016 presidential election?

7. Can the Obama administration take credit for declining unemployment rates?

8. Should the United States declare China a "currency manipulator"?

9. Will the petition by Texas citizens to peaceably secede from the Union succeed?

10. Should federal regulators ban "5 Hour Energy" and similar products?

11. Was FEMA's response to Hurricane Sandy adequate?

12. Should David Petraeus face a Court Martial for violating the military's prohibition on extra-marital affairs?

13. Are "daily deal" websites such as "Groupon" losing their attraction with consumers?

More Difficult Topics
1. What should be the most important legislative priority of the next Obama term?

2. Should Congress act to undo the effects of the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United?

3. Will the concern over intelligence about the Consulate attack in Benghazi, Libya turn into a full-blown scandal?

4. What will be the repercussions of the David Petraeus adultery scandal for the CIA?

5. With the passage of marriage equality initiatives in several states, should Congress pursue repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act?

6. What steps should the Republican Party take to increase its favor among minority voters?

7. In retrospect, what is the chief reason for President Obama's defeat of Mitt Romney in the 2012 election?

8. With Obamacare now unlikely to be repealed, what impact will its full implementation have on the U.S. economy?

9. Should the federal government encourage the development of alternatives to the traditional college degree?

10. Has the Justice Department reached a fair settlement with BP over the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico?

11. Should state governors agree to manage health care insurance exchanges under the Affordable Care Act, or leave that responsibility to the federal government?

12. Should residents of states affected by Hurricane Sandy be able to sue utilities for their failure to promptly restore power?

**International**

**Easier Topics**

1. Can the conflict between Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza be contained?

2. Is it time for the United States to intervene militarily in Syria?

3. Is the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel in danger of collapsing?

4. Will China's new leadership increase the pace of reform?
5. Can the Euro survive a second recession?
6. Why do the Greek people so strongly oppose their government's austerity measures?
7. Is France at the center of the Eurozone's problems, as some critics suggest?
8. Is Evo Morales losing popularity among the Bolivian people?
9. Can Libya's government tame the country's Islamist militia groups?
10. Is the Arab League an effective mediator for conflicts in the Middle East?
11. Is Islamic extremism spreading in Africa?
12. Can the Afghanistan government advance peace talks with the Taliban?
13. Does Vladimir Putin's invitation to President Obama to visit Moscow suggest a thaw in chilly US-Russian relations?

More Difficult Topics

1. What will be the social consequences of China's slowing economic growth?
2. Should China privatize its state-owned enterprises?
3. Are India's current social welfare policies appropriate for tackling the effects of poverty?
4. Is the Liberal Democratic Party's choice of Shinzo Abe as its new leader a good choice for the party regaining control of Japan's government?
5. Can the government of Myanmar quell conflict between Buddhists and Muslims?
6. Can Cuba turn its renowned health care system into a fresh source of revenue for the ailing state?
7. Are Canada's tar sands a remedy to the high cost of global oil?
8. Will UN involvement in Mali help to drive-out Jihadist forces in the country's civil war?
9. What will be the effect of Brazil's increased investment in African nations?
10. How will the increasing age of Saudi Arabia's leadership impact the country's government?
11. Should Turkey cooperate with Iraqi Kurdistan to build an oil export pipeline through its territory?
12. How will President Obama’s reelection impact Pakistan’s relationship with the United States?

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?
October 2012

Domestic

Easier Topics

1. Is academic dishonesty becoming a significant problem at America's colleges and universities?

2. Which political party has the best plan to address the federal government’s looming budget crisis?

3. Is Joe Biden an asset or a liability to President Obama?

4. Is President Obama a different President than he was in 2009?

5. Was Paul Ryan a strong pick for Mitt Romney’s running mate?

6. Should Mitt Romney provide more of his previous tax returns to the press?

7. Will money be a definitive factor in deciding the outcome of the presidential election?

8. Are Romney’s criticisms of the Obama foreign policy record fair?

9. Will the Republican Party retake control of the Senate?

10. Are the States ready to implement the Affordable Care Act?

11. Can the Democratic Party improve its appeal among male voters?

12. Will health care reform help or hurt President Obama in his bid for reelection?

13. Are social or economic issues more important to American voters in 2012?

More Difficult Topics

1. 11 years after September 11, 2001, has the United States dropped its guard when protecting our foreign embassies?

2. Have controversial statements by Missouri Senate candidate, Todd Akin, undermined the credibility of the Republican Party with female voters?

3. Did Hurricane Isaac vindicate the federal government’s efforts to protect New Orleans from flooding?

4. Who do voters blame most for the sluggish economy?

5. How will this summer’s extensive drought impact the U.S. economy?
6. Are robotic rovers the future of America’s space program?

7. Is the Federal Reserve Board failing America’s economy?

8. Should the United States adopt “smart grid” technology for its electrical system?

9. Should government recognize the legality of polygamous unions?

10. Will increased domestic energy production decrease America’s concern with Middle Eastern affairs?

11. What can be done to stem the growing rates of debt among young Americans?

12. What can the Republican Party do to increase its appeal among minority voters?

**International**

**Easier Topics**

1. Can Israel and the United States mend their increasingly strained relations?

2. Is Yemen succeeding in its fight against Al-Qaeda?

3. Is peace between Israel and Egypt at risk?

4. Is it time for the United States to intervene in Syria?

5. What is the cause of strained relations between South Korea and Japan?

6. Is Israel too eager to launch an attack against Iran’s nuclear program?

7. Will the Colombian government succeed in negotiating peace with the FARC?

8. Do the Chinese people have reason to believe government corruption is decreasing?

9. Should EU nations bail-out Spain?

10. Is Somalia on its way to having a stable government?

11. What can be done to heal the divisions in ASEAN?

12. Can Turkey decrease the conflict with its Kurdish population?

13. Can Nigeria succeed in reducing militant activity there?
More Difficult Topics

1. Will China and Japan’s dispute over islands in the South China Sea boil over into violence?

2. Are American politicians wrong to support Jerusalem as the capital of Israel?

3. Can Mongolia capitalize on its recent successes to become another Asian economic success story?

4. Can growing economic prosperity lessen poverty in India?

5. Will Serbia’s return to Milosevic-era political leaders endanger its desired entry into the EU?

6. Will the separatist Parti Quebecois return to power in Quebec?

7. Can Chinese AIDS activists succeed in their efforts to put pressure on their government?

8. Should the EU create a banking union?

9. Will the people of Kyrgyzstan succeed in forming a stable government?

10. What can be done to reduce violence by Afghan police against their NATO trainers?

11. What can Francois Hollande do to boost his popularity with the French people?

12. Can Rio match London in its hosting of the Olympics?