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 With Obamacare now unlikely to be repealed, what impact will its full implementation have on the U.S. economy?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