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 March.

**NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS**

# March 2012

***Domestic***

*Easier Topics*

1. Is Facebook a good bet for investors?
2. Are Super PACs having as much influence on the presidential race as commentators suggest?
3. Should federal tax reformers adopt the Buffet Rule?
4. Should the United States commit troops to intervention in Syria?
5. Are FCC indecency rules outdated?
6. Does Rick Santorum’s appeal extend beyond the religious right?
7. Is racial segregation still a significant problem in America’s cities?
8. Will Congress reject the Obama administration’s plans to cut military budgets?
9. Which political party best addresses the concerns of moderate voters?
10. What will be the effect of extending the payroll tax credit?
11. Is early voting good or bad for the presidential primary process?
12. Should Haley Barbour’s mass pardons be revoked?
13. Should Americans be worried about the widening trade deficit?

*More Difficult*

1. Despite setbacks in his campaign, will Mitt Romney ultimately emerge as the Republican presidential nominee?
2. Should the United States take on more debt to spur the economic recovery?
3. Is the spread of “right to work” states crippling the union movement in the United States?
4. Should the United States place greater emphasis on treatment over punishment in the war on drugs?
5. Will the 9th Circuit court’s decision that California’s Proposition 8 is unconstitutional stand up on appeal?
6. Was the Obama administration mistaken to challenge the Catholic Church over health insurance coverage for contraception?
7. What is the cause of Newt Gingrich’s sudden electoral decline?
8. Is the era of coal’s dominance as America’s primary energy source coming to an end?
9. Did President Obama’s State of the Union Address give a boost to his popularity with the public?
10. Should Apple be investigated for the labor practices of its overseas plants?
11. Who has the best claim to “outsider” status in the presidential race?
12. Should colleges and universities be required to focus more attention on training students for jobs in specific industries?

## **International**

*Easier Topics*

1. Should the United States accelerate the draw-down of US troops from Afghanistan?
2. Is Canada beginning to face its own housing bubble?
3. Can political stability be restored to Papua New Guinea?
4. Can Malaysia’s opposition overcome lingering charges against their leader, Anwar Ibrahim?
5. Will Portugal be the next country to weaken the Euro?
6. Is the world community doing enough to combat the spread of tropical diseases?
7. Are protests in Russia a threat to the government’s survival?
8. Can Venezuela’s opposition beat Hugo Chavez in the upcoming presidential election?
9. Has Sri Lanka ceased to be a legitimate democracy?
10. Should Israel wait for American support before launching a strike on Iran’s nuclear sites?
11. Was the Greek government mistaken in its recent adoption of austerity measures?
12. Is Germany’s leadership good for the Eurozone?
13. Is Angela Merkel benefitting politically from the Eurozone crisis?

*More Difficult*

1. What issues will define the outcome in the French presidential election?
2. What impact will recent state elections in India have on the country’s national politics?
3. Is the threat of military conflict in the South China Sea overblown?
4. Can improvements in the economy pacify disgruntled Tibetans in China?
5. How has the Arab Spring impacted the economies of the Middle East?
6. Which is more powerful: Pakistan’s army or Pakistan’s judiciary?
7. What steps should African nations take to better capitalize on their vast mining wealth?
8. Does the failure of the UN Security Council to act on the crisis in Syria prove that it is time to eliminate the vetoes of permanent members?
9. Has the Arab Spring been good or bad for Israel?
10. Are Sudan and South Sudan destined to return to war?
11. Should African governments make it easier for foreign firms to mine within their territory?
12. How will the final departure of Ali Abdulah Saleh from the presidency of Yemen change conditions in his embattled country?