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 2013

***Domestic***

*Easier Topics*

1. Is Marco Rubio the savior of the Republican Party?
2. Is America’s attitude toward marijuana changing?
3. Is the F-35 fighter too expensive for the US military?
4. Are American schools failing in the instruction of mathematics?
5. Can Congress succeed in passing comprehensive immigration reform?
6. Should educators reduce the use of standardized tests when evaluating school effectiveness?
7. What is needed to spur the growth of the electric car industry?
8. Can President Obama bring an end to political deadlock in Washington?
9. Should the United States Mint eliminate the penny?
10. Should the United States increase its investment in developing its ports and inland waterways?
11. What will be John Kerry’s priorities as Secretary of State?
12. Will the implementation of Obamacare cause businesses to drop workers’ health coverage?
13. Can the Pentagon weather the effects of a budget sequester?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. Does the United States government do enough to take care of soldiers after they leave military service?
2. Is the government doing enough to protect humanity against the threat from near earth objects?
3. Should the federal government regulate the use of aerial drones over the United States?
4. How will the end of the ban on women in combat change the United States military?
5. Is Blackberry a doomed brand?
6. Can different factions within the Republican Party agree on changes that will lead to victory in future elections?
7. Is it likely that gays and lesbians in the military will be provided spousal benefits, such as health insurance?
8. How will the end of Saturday delivery by the U.S. Postal Service impact the viability of the office?
9. How will the shale oil boom impact the economy of rural communities?
10. How will technical problems with the Boeing 787 Dreamliner impact the fortunes of the Boeing Corporation?
11. Did President Obama exceed his authority by making recess appointments to various boards in January?
12. Has Apple’s success peaked?

## **International**

*Easier Topics*

1. How will the election of a new Pope change the Catholic Church?
2. Is al-Qaeda on the offense?
3. Will civil war break out between the Kurds and the rest of Iraq?
4. Should we be concerned about the decline in birthrates worldwide?
5. Why is Egypt again facing civil strife?
6. Can Peru maintain its recent economic success?
7. Can negotiations with Iran resolve the international conflict over its nuclear program?
8. Can Serbia and Kosovo develop a more stable relationship?
9. Is Angela Merkel’s power in Europe waning?
10. Can Rahul Gandhi emerge as a national leader in India?
11. What can the people of Ecuador expect from another term for Rafael Correa?
12. Can Pakistan help bring about peace in Afghanistan?
13. Will a new peace agreement in the Central African Republic succeed?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. Will North Korea’s nuclear test result in less support of the state from China?
2. Can the civil war in Mali be stopped without significant European or American intervention?
3. How important is Yair Lapid’s influence in Israeli politics?
4. Can Japan handle the increasingly costly burden of caring for its elderly population?
5. How will the expansion of General Motors’ operations in China impact the auto industry?
6. Has India’s poor record on women’s rights imperiled its economic growth?
7. What can be done to stop border smuggling into Gaza?
8. Can Myanmar and China find a solution to the conflict with the Kachin people?
9. Is the international community doing enough to meet the needs of Syria’s refugees?
10. What kind of leader is likely to succeed Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as president of Iran?
11. What can Russian leaders do to tame organized crime in their country?
12. Is David Cameron’s popularity on the rise in Britain?