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 April.

**NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS**

# April 2013

***Domestic***

*Easier Topics*

1. Should special labeling be required for genetically-modified foods?
2. Can Paul Ryan’s proposed Republican budget shift the debate over federal spending?
3. Will the federal budget sequester do harm to the American economy?
4. Can Disney be a good steward of the Star Wars franchise?
5. Can advocates of gun control succeed in getting tougher background checks for new gun owners?
6. Can the Republican Party reclaim its title as the champion of opportunity?
7. Is opposition to the Keystone Pipeline in the national interest?
8. Is the GOP making moves to become more inclusive?
9. Should the United States expand shale oil and gas extraction in the American west?
10. Should the United States expand exports of natural gas?
11. Is it time for the United States to eliminate the penny from its currency?
12. Should American businesses expand the ability of their employees to telecommute?
13. Is President Obama’s climate change agenda advancing quickly enough?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. What explains the growing strength of the stock market at the same time as a weakened economy?
2. Would amnesty for undocumented aliens help or hurt the U.S. economy?
3. Should the federal government establish rules for the use of aerial drones?
4. Does Chuck Hegel’s narrow confirmation as Secretary of Defense weaken him as he takes office?
5. Will the Steubenville, Ohio rape verdict change the way America thinks about sexual misconduct in high schools?
6. Is the Republican Party beginning to make a shift toward libertarian principles?
7. Should Congress support President Obama’s Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership?
8. Is President Obama’s proposal to raise the minimum wage sound economic policy?
9. How will Republican plans to shorten their presidential primary season effect their prospects for 2016?
10. What should the United States do to bolster its cyber-defenses?
11. Will Republican governors regret having agreed to Medicaid expansion?
12. Will Arkansas’ recently-passed abortion law withstand court scrutiny?

## **International**

*Easier Topics*

1. Is China’s new President a reformer?
2. How will Pope Francis’s selection change the Catholic Church?
3. Is President Obama prepared to go to war over Iran’s nuclear program?
4. Will Cyprus’ economic troubles wound the Eurozone?
5. Can Mongolian leaders handle the fast pace of their economic growth?
6. Can Nigeria’s united opposition pose a serious threat to the People’s Democratic Party?
7. Is France’s President, Francois Hollande, moving to the political center?
8. Do Russian politicians profit from their anti-American message?
9. How will NATO’s withdrawal from Afghanistan impact the rest of Central Asia?
10. What can Kenyans expect from their new president?
11. How will Syria’s civil war impact Lebanon?
12. Will Ukraine succeed in making the reforms the European Union seeks of it?
13. How will Hugo Chavez’s death impact leftist politics in Latin America?

*More Difficult Topics*

1. Is East Africa the next big source for oil imports?
2. What steps can China’s government take to increase food safety?
3. What must Hugo Chavez’s heir do to boost Venezuela’s economy?
4. How will Italy’s divided election results affect the country’s efforts to revive its economy?
5. Can the Brazilian government succeed in promoting working class home ownership?
6. Will North Korea’s decision to suspend the armistice with South Korea and its allies result in renewed conflict on the Korean peninsula?
7. What does the Chinese government hope to achieve by consolidating its government ministries?
8. After many years of conflict across the globe, is Islamic extremism expanding or contracting?
9. What can Iraq’s sectarian leaders do to bring about a more unified nation?
10. What can Cubans expect from Miguel Diaz-Canel when he succeeds the Castro brothers?
11. What steps can Thailand take to curtail its negative reputation with regard to human trafficking?
12. What can India do to make sure its minority Muslim citizens do not become increasingly disaffected?