



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 of your state or by means which may be accessed outside of your state, including the Internet, during the month of October.

**NFHS EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS
October 2018**

Domestic

Closed-Ended

1. Has the United States Senate handled the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh correctly?
2. Will Democrats recapture control of the U.S. Congress?
3. Was the federal government's response to Hurricane Florence adequate?
4. Should Elon Musk step-down from his leadership of Tesla?
5. Should Congress act to block the creation of President Trump's proposed "Space Force," as the 6th branch of the military?
6. Is the United States adequately prepared to answer the threat of cyberwarfare from abroad?
7. Should Brock Long be replaced as FEMA administrator?
8. Do President Trump's tweets help or hurt him politically?
9. Did the anonymous Trump administration official, who authored the infamous letter to the *New York Times*, commit an act of "treason" as asserted by the President?
10. Can the Trump administration succeed in negotiating a successor agreement to NAFTA?
11. Is FEMA unprepared to handle contemporary natural disasters?
12. Should Michael Bloomberg pursue the presidency in 2020?

Open-Ended

1. How will the outcome of the Brett Kavanaugh nomination and confirmation process impact the midterm elections?
2. What does the United States military need to do to better confront a rising Chinese military?
3. How are President Trump's tariffs impacting the United States economy?
4. Has the Trump administration adequately responded to court demands to reunite immigrant families separated at the border?
5. When can Americans expect a conclusion to the Robert Mueller investigation?
6. What has been the impact of Bob Woodward's book "Fear" on the Trump administration?
7. How will the Trump administration's decision to drastically cut its cap on refugees impact America's image in the world?
8. What steps can the United States take to de-escalate its trade conflict with China?
9. What will be the impact of the Texas State Board of Education to remove certain figures – such as Hillary Clinton – from the state's history curriculum?
10. How will the Trump administration's decrease in attention to initiatives fighting climate change impact the global efforts to address the issue?
11. How are the actions of the Justice Department impacting free speech on America's college campuses?
12. What must the United States do to save American factory jobs?
13. What accounts for the success of Beto O'Rourke in the Texas Senate polls?

International**Closed-Ended**

1. Will Syria's accidental downing of a Russian plane prove to be a setback to Syria's support of the Assad regime?

2. Who is doing more to improve the prospects for peace on the Korean peninsula: The United States or South Korea?
3. Should Myanmar be referred to the International Criminal Court for war crimes against its Rohingya population?
4. Has Poland's anti-democratic drift breached its obligations under the European Union Treaty?
5. Is democracy in danger in Guatemala?
6. Is Russia working to undermine sanctions against North Korea?
7. Is the security threat from Iran in the Persian Gulf increasing?
8. Is Iraq more or less safe today than it was when ISIS was expelled from the country?
9. Will the declining economy loosen Daniel Ortega's grip on power in Nicaragua?
10. Will India's decision to decriminalize same sex relations change the lives of Indian LGBT individuals?
11. Can Thailand make a successful transition back to a freely-elected democratic government?
12. Can land swaps between Serbia and Kosovo resolve the ongoing disputes over Kosovar independence?

Open-Ended

1. How will increased Russian cooperation with Turkey impact the NATO alliance?
2. What can Colombia do to stop the growth of new insurgent groups?
3. How will China's modernization of its Navy impact China's global influence?
4. What can the international community do to respond to China's oppression of its Uighur minority?
5. What will be the impact of the creation of a demilitarized zone by Turkey and Russia in Syria?
6. What steps can Taiwan take to improve its relationship with mainland China?

7. How will a new free trade agreement with the United States impact the Mexican economy?
8. What can Venezuela's president do to revive his nation's economy?
9. How will Malaysia's resistance to China's Belt and Road initiative impact the behavior of other countries in the region?
10. What must Australia's Prime Minister do to lessen divisions within his political party?
11. What can Afghanistan's neighbors do to bring about an end to the civil war in Afghanistan?
12. How will the Palestinian Authority be impacted by the lessening of support from the United States?
13. How will the economic slump in South Africa impact their president's plans for economic reform?