

Extemporaneous Topics:

Students will be given the opportunity to choose three questions, then decide which of those questions they would like to address. After they determine which question they will address, they will then have 30 minutes to prepare their speech. Each round will focus on one of the following topics: jobs/employment, media, and immigration. Listed below are a few samples for coaches to use in preparation for the state tournament.

Jobs/Employment - unemployment, Wealth Gap, automation, outsourcing, trade policy

- To what extent does outsourcing affect jobs?
- What are the causes of unemployment in the United States?
- To what extent does a wealth gap exist in the United States?
- What consequences will the emerging US-China trade war bring? NSDA 2018 Question
- To what extent is automation affecting the loss of jobs in manufacturing?
- What can the United States do to increase the supply of skilled workers?
- To what extent does the new NAFTA agreement protect American workers?
- How would raising the minimum wage impact the wealth gap for American workers?
- What can the United States do to encourage entrepreneurs?
- Should new college graduates move out of Michigan for work?
- What impact will AI have on employment?

Media - social media, bias, fake news, Government Corruption, Elections

- To what extent is the news media under attack by the Trump Whitehouse?
- What is the role of the media in a democracy?
- How can democracies safeguard their elections from external interference? NSDA
- What are the effects of social media on teens?
- What is the impact of “fake news” on a democracy?
- Is social media an addiction?
- How is the partisan divide over which media sources to trust affecting our democracy?
- How important is access to social media for students?
- Given that many tech entrepreneurs limit access to social media for their own children, should this be true for all young people?
- Is the labeling of media as Fake News by the White House working?
- What is the likelihood that the upcoming elections will be distorted by social media and fake news?

Immigration - chain migration, asylum, The Wall, detention

- Why does President Trump still not have the financing for his wall? NSDA
- Should the United States increase the number of refugees it admits? NSDA

- What is the effect of Trump's immigration policies on chain migration?
- Should DACA - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals - be ended?
- To what extent have the children detained at the Mexico/U.S. border been reunited with their families?
- What is the effect of Trump's immigration policies on sanctuary cities?
- Should the United States increase the number of employment visas?
- What has been the biggest impact of Trump immigration policies?
- Should ICE be abolished?
- To what extent are immigration policies a threat to traditional American freedoms?

Impromptu Topics:

Students will be given the opportunity to choose three prompts, then decide which of those questions they would like to address. After they determine which prompt they will address, they will then have 1 minute to prepare their speech. Each round will focus on one of the following topics: friends, interview-style questions, and sports/games. Listed below are a few samples for coaches to use in preparation for the state tournament. Understand that "interview-style" prompts will always be formed as questions. "Friends" prompts will be presented as a quote or question. "Sports and Games" will be presented as quote or visual cue (with a corresponding question or quote as seen in the examples below).

Friends - famous friends, interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution

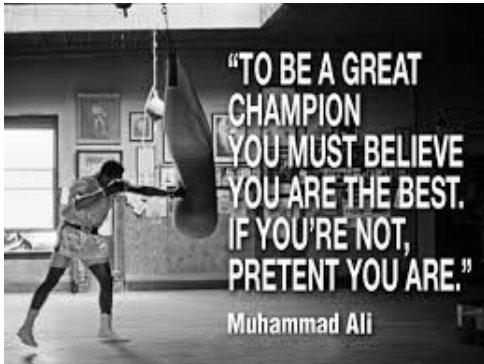
- "Nothing makes the earth seem so spacious as to have friends at a distance; they make the latitudes and longitudes." – Henry David Thoreau
- What are ways to make friends?
- How can a broken relationship be mended?
- Why are friends necessary?
- "It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies, but just as much to stand up to our friends." -Albus Dumbledore
- Is it possible to have friends older and younger than yourself?
- What role does listening play in a good friendship?

Interview-style questions

- What motivates you?
- What makes a good team player?
- Tell me about a time you were under a lot of pressure. What was going on, and how did you get through it?
- What is your greatest strength?
- Describe a challenge and how you overcame it.
- What techniques and tools do you use to stay organized?
- Who are your heroes?
- What are a few of your favorite films?

Sports and Games

- “Sports teaches you...to play by the rules;...it teaches you about life.”
-Billie Jean King



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- “I’ve failed over and over again in my life. That is why I succeed.” -Michael Jordan
- “Sports build good habits, confidence, and discipline.” -Julie Foudy
- “One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than a hundred teaching it.”
-Knute Rockne.
- *(in regard to the Nike ad listed below)* Describe a time in which you made sacrifices for something you believed in?



- “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” -Wayne Gretzi
- “It doesn’t matter how good you are. Sport is all about playing and competing.”
-Ian Botham

Broadcasting Topic: Environment - climate change, Wildfires, hurricanes

As many of you know, Broadcasting is a new category for middle level competitors.

Students will have the opportunity to create an original broadcasting script using recent news stories. In addition to their original script, students will read, edit and incorporate one article about this year’s topic: the environment. At each round of the tournament, they will receive a new article about the environment. Students are expected to write an editorial featuring their opinion on the article and incorporate it into their script. Students will have a total of 15 minutes to read, edit, write their opinion, and incorporate the story in their

newscast. Below are a few editorial stories coaches may use as they prepare for the state tournament.

[Hurricane Michael hits Florida Panhandle causing major destruction](#)

[Robotic bees could be the solution to the world's bee problem](#)

[Giving plastic a second chance, saving the environment](#)

[New study shows ocean wilderness is disappearing](#)

[World is not addressing climate change, scientist warn in a new report](#)