

***2009 KHSSL STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP***

***EXTEMPORANEOUS
SPEAKING TOPICS***

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FIRST ROUND KHSSL SENIOR STATE EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS

Topic Areas: (1) The Environment, Science, and Technology

(2) Israeli-Palestinian Issues

(3) The Bush Years

Speaker 1

1. Do fertility clinics need more federal oversight?
2. Can George Mitchell make the prospect of "peace in the Middle East" more realistic?
3. Many years from now what will be seen as President Bush's best foreign policy achievement?

Speaker 2

1. Should the Internet be reconstructed?
2. Did Hamas lose in Gaza?
3. What was President Bush's finest hour?

Speaker 3

1. Should the federal government cut funding towards missile defense technology?
2. Why is Israel's Labor Party in such disarray?
3. What will be the legacy of George W. Bush?

Speaker 4

1. Do the benefits outweigh the costs of nuclear power?
2. Should Israel release Marwan Barghouti?
3. Many years from now what will be seen as President Bush's best domestic achievement?

Speaker 5

1. Should the international community take the issue of space junk more seriously?
2. Is Avigdor Lieberman a detriment to a future Israeli-Palestinian peace?
3. What was President Bush's worst policy decision?

Speaker 6

1. Should the UN Security Council play a larger role in combating global climate change?
2. Are European courts citing "universal jurisdiction" appropriate venues for evaluating the alleged abuses of Israeli soldiers in the latest Gaza war?
3. Was Dick Cheney a benefit or a detriment to the Bush administration?

Speaker 7

1. What is the best way for NASA to regain a position of relevance in the eyes of Americans?
2. Should U.S. reconstruction aid to Gaza be tied to the release of Gilad Shalit?
3. What was President Bush's worst cabinet appointment?

SECOND ROUND KHSSL SENIOR STATE EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS

- Topic Areas: (1) Europe
(2) The Obama Administration
(3) The Military & Terrorism**

Speaker 1

1. Would joining the European Union hurt Iceland's fishing industry?
2. Was Hillary Clinton's Asia tour a success?
3. What country is currently the biggest threat to the U.S. national security?

Speaker 2

1. Should Britain re-evaluate its "special relationship" with the United States?
2. Was Janet Napolitano a good pick for Homeland Security Secretary?
3. Will the U.S. leave troops in Iraq when its combat mission there ends in September 2010?

Speaker 3

1. Is Yulia Tymoshenko to blame for Ukraine's economic downturn?
2. When the time comes, will Obama choose to keep Bernanke?
3. Has President Bush given Obama a gift in Iraq?

Speaker 4

1. Should Labour replace Gordon Brown before the next British parliamentary elections?
2. Were Eric Holder's comments about race in America appropriate?
3. Will Obama's planned cuts in military spending endanger America?

Speaker 5

1. Have reform efforts stalled in Turkey?
2. Should Hillary Clinton or Tim Geithner have more of a say in China policy?
3. What problems exist with putting terror suspects on trial in the U.S. federal court system?

Speaker 6

1. Will the far right be the biggest winner of Europe's current economic troubles?
2. How can Joe Biden best be used in the Obama administration?
3. Why are U.S. military forces doing better at counter insurgency work than their British counterparts?

Speaker 7

1. How should Spain's ruling Socialist Party interpret regional election results?
2. Was it wise for Obama to keep Gates?
3. What lessons should U.S. military planners take from the Iraq war?

THIRD ROUND KHSSL SENIOR STATE EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING TOPICS

- Topic Areas: (1) Africa
(2) India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan
(3) The 2008 Elections & Beyond**

Speaker 1

1. Is Jacob Zuma a threat to South Africa's democratic traditions?
2. Should the Afghan elections be held in April or August?
3. How can the Democrats establish a "permanent majority" in Congress?

Speaker 2

1. Will Zimbabwe's cholera emergency turn into a regional disaster?
2. Can negotiations with the Taliban bring peace to Afghanistan?
3. Who is the most vulnerable U.S. Senator up for re-election in 2010?

Speaker 3

1. What are the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda getting out of joining forces to crush the FDLR?
2. Can the Pakistani government guarantee India that there will not be any future terrorist attacks on Indian soil?
3. Should the GOP turn to Bobby Jindal in 2012?

Speaker 4

1. Should the international community end sanctions against Zimbabwe?
2. Will the BJP be forming India's next government?
3. Have Hillary Clinton's presidential ambitions been permanently shelved?

Speaker 5

1. Is the issuing of an arrest warrant for Omar al-Bashir by the ICC counterproductive to the Sudanese peace process?
2. Why does India want the Sri Lankan government to agree to a ceasefire with the Tamil Tigers?
3. Should the Senate seat Al Franken?

Speaker 6

1. What is wrong with MONUC?
2. Why is the influence of the Taliban in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province growing?
3. If Sarah Palin wants the GOP nomination in 2012, how can she best lay the groundwork to seize it?

Speaker 7

1. Should the U.S. be held responsible for the recent human rights abuses committed by Joseph Kony's LRA?
2. Will Obama's interest in Kashmir upset America's relations with India?
3. Did Obama win or did McCain lose?

**SEMI-FINAL ROUND KHSSL SENIOR STATE EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING
TOPICS**

**Topic Areas: (1) Domestic Politics
(2) China
(3) The U.S. Economy**

Speaker 1

1. Two months into his administration, has Obama changed Washington or let Washington change him?
2. Is China wasting a valuable opportunity to make peace with Tibetans before the Dalai Llama passes away?
3. Why are community banks doing okay while big banks are faltering?

Speaker 2

1. Has Michael Steele set the bar too high for the 2010 midterm elections?
2. Should the U.S. get tougher on China over its abuses of current trade laws?
3. Will tax cuts or more government spending best solve the current economic recession?

Speaker 3

1. Is President Obama making a shrewd political play in attacking Rush Limbaugh?
2. How can China increase domestic demand?
3. Are America's job training programs inadequate?

Speaker 4

1. Currently, who is the most powerful figure in the Republican Party?
2. Should the Chinese government fear worker protests about declining economic growth?
3. Will Lisa Jackson's administration of the EPA be catastrophic for the economy?

Speaker 5

1. Was GOP opposition to the stimulus package misguided?
2. Will closer economic integration between China and Taiwan eventually lead to more political integration?
3. How should the U.S. reform its banking system?

Speaker 6

1. How can the Republicans improve their image with Latino voters?
2. Will the current global economic situation be a boon or bane for efforts to democratize China?
3. Will Obama's stimulus package work?

Speaker 7

1. Is the current GOP leadership inadequate to bring the party back to power?
2. Can the U.S. successfully get China to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions?
3. Who is to blame for the current economic crisis?

**CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND KHSSL SENIOR STATE EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING
TOPICS**

**Topic Areas: (1) Russia, Japan, and the Koreans
(2) Latin America + Canada
(3) Southeast Asia + Australia**

Speaker 1

1. Can bilateral rather than multilateral negotiations best bring peace to the Korean peninsula?
2. Have investors lost confidence in Argentina?
3. Does Fiji need a large amount of electoral reform before fresh elections are held to replace its interim government?

Speaker 2

1. Are Japanese politics on the verge of a major re-alignment?
2. Why is Michael Ignatieff cold to the idea of an opposition coalition to oust Stephen Harper's conservative government?
3. After recent wildfires, should Australia re-evaluate its "stay and defend" policy?

Speaker 3

1. How seriously should North Korea's threats against South Korea be taken?
2. When it comes to economic policy in the Latin American region, does Chile have it right?
3. Are Western sanctions against Myanmar counterproductive toward establishing a democratic government there?

Speaker 4

1. Would it be more beneficial for NATO if Russia was made a member?
2. What does Raul Castro's recent shakeup of the Cuban government mean for future US-Cuban relations?
3. Why has the Sri Lankan government experienced such a surge of military success over the last year against the Tamil Tigers?

Speaker 5

1. Should Russia be concerned with Ramzan Kadyrov's embrace of Islamic fundamentalist principles in Chechnya?
2. Has Mexico become a failed state?
3. Why has Sheikh Hassina's reputation been enhanced by her handling of the Bangladeshi army mutiny?

Speaker 6

1. Is the arms control framework between the U.S. and Russia too damaged to create a reduction in their nuclear arsenals?
2. Ten years on: Have the Chavez years been good for Venezuela?
3. How can Vietnam cure its economic woes?

Speaker 7

1. Does the DOJ really need Ozawa?
2. Has Peru's government let environmental degradation get out of control?
3. Is Cambodia's eviction of Phnom Penh residents for commercial development illegal?