



Montgomery Bell Academy • Nashville, Tennessee
Extemporaneous Speaking Round Robin XIII • 2011

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United States Politics

1. Does the GOP's approach to health care repeal indicate that they are not willing to play by their own new rules?
2. How influential will Sarah Palin be in selecting the GOP nominee for president if she chooses not to run?
3. Will Obama's inner circle shake-up make him a more effective president?
4. What would it take for Obama to remobilize the youth vote for the 2012 election?
5. Is the Republican congress likely to benefit business at the expense of consumers?
6. How will Conservative support to end birthright citizenship impact the GOP's ability to attract minority voters?
7. Will Schumer's call for Democratic Senators to focus on local and regional press markets over the national media pay off at reelection time?
8. Who should replace Robert Gibbs as Obama's press secretary?
9. Is John McCain's opposition to the repeal of DADT a sign that he is losing touch with moderates?
10. What changes should be made to the filibuster rules in the US Senate?
11. Does Mitch McConnell deserve the bulk of the credit for the Republican resurgence in Congress?
12. Is William Dailey a sound choice for Chief of Staff?

United States Economics

1. Is the federal government doing enough to bolster the private mortgage industry?
2. Should the SEC force Facebook to go public with its finances?
3. Can Google overtake Apple and Microsoft's dominance of computer markets?
4. Will the Oprah Network be a successful experiment in the cable business?
5. What impact have American economic troubles had on the debate for social security privatization?
6. What can state governments do to combat unemployment?
7. How well is the United States weaning itself off of foreign oil?
8. Can state governments afford to lose the funding for health care that comes with recent federal overhauls?
9. How will the growing popularity of e-readers change the book publishing industry?
10. Is the housing market heading for a second major dip?
11. Would raising the federal income tax really be disastrous for economic growth prospects in the US?
12. What would be the economic ramifications if Congress refuses to raise the debt ceiling?

United States Social Issues

1. Is another debate over Obama's health care plan really in the nation's best interest?
2. Are recently passed health care benefits enough to meet the medical needs of 9/11 first responders?
3. What does the Captain Owen Honors scandal say about military culture?
4. Is two tier internet service in the best interests of the consumer?
5. Has the US improved its capability to respond to environmental disasters?
6. Should the FDA ban the sale of menthol-flavored cigarettes?
7. Should the US embrace nuclear energy?
8. How can the federal government effectively prevent state secret leaks?
9. What challenges does the repeal of DADT pose to the American military?



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10. How well did Michael Bloomberg respond to the December snowstorms?
11. Is the federal government prepared to meet the needs of an increasing number of veterans returning from war?
12. What is the fairest way to measure teacher effectiveness?

Judicial/Constitutional/Federalism Issues

1. How has the Tea Party impacted the nature of the federalism debate?
2. Can we expect Elena Kagan to leave a discernable mark on the Supreme Court this term?
3. Is the Arizona law allowing for police officers to check for citizenship status constitutional?
4. Are state governments or the federal government better equipped to regulate education in America?
5. How can Obama incentivize citizens to get medical insurance if courts rule that tax-penalty enforced mandates are unconstitutional?
6. How have delayed confirmations in the US Senate impacted the federal judiciary?
7. Should congressional bill authors be required to prove the constitutionality of their policies?
8. Does the Fourteenth Amendment deny state governments the ability to restrict granting citizenship to the children of illegal immigrants?
9. Is the new Shield Bill a violation of First Amendment principles?
10. Should advocating on behalf of foreign terrorist organizations be protected by the First Amendment?
11. Should judges be allowed to give drug offenders longer sentences than recommended by law to promote rehabilitation?
12. How will the Supreme Court rule in the Wal-Mart sex discrimination case?

Foreign Economics

1. Will Chinese economic intervention prevent or promote another euro crisis?
2. How is the government's treatment of Mikhail Khordovosky likely to impact the future of foreign investment in Russia?
3. Is the economy of Dubai on the rebound?
4. Is inflation set to cripple the prospects for economic growth in Brazil?
5. Will China maintain its dominance of natural resource markets in Africa?
6. Are we likely to see another global oil price hike in 2011?
7. How have austerity worries in the western half of the continent impacted the Eastern European economy?
8. Which European nation is most likely to follow Greece and Ireland's plummet in international bond markets?
9. How can global markets make renewable energy affordable?
10. How have American economic troubles impacted the Mexican economy?
11. Will increasing the VAT cripple the British economy?
12. Is a lack of global coordination going to cripple economic growth worldwide?

International Organizations

1. How have economic woes worldwide changed the role of intergovernmental organizations on the world stage?
2. Should the US aggressively push for an Indian seat on the UN security council?
3. Is the global community ready for an intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to environmental issues?
4. Is ASEAN doing enough to promote free trade in the region?
5. How should the UN respond to recent rises in global food prices?
6. Are bilateral trade deals likely to blunt the influence of the WTO?



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7. Is the AU turning a blind eye to the problems posed by Robert Mugabe?
8. Is the EU effectively promoting democracy in Eastern Europe?
9. When it comes to immigration policy, are nationalists poised to have their say in the EU?
10. How will Hungarian leadership change the EU?
11. Is the bureaucracy of the UN too large for its own good?
12. When it comes to Israeli-Palestinian relations, is the EU in a better place to strike a deal than the US?

International Relations

1. How should South Korea respond to overtures by the North for reconciliation?
2. Will 2011 bear witness to the warming of relations between America and Brazil?
3. Has the global community lost interest in bringing stability to Africa?
4. Will Colombia attempt to capitalize on political instability in Venezuela?
5. Is India taking too aggressive an approach in its dealings in Kashmir?
6. Would a nuclear Iran pose a legitimate security threat to China?
7. What does Poland stand to gain by supporting opposition parties in Belarus?
8. How should Palestinian leadership respond to Turkish efforts to reconcile their relationship with Israel?
9. Is Russia seeking to expand its influence in the Middle East?
10. How should the US respond to the return of Moktada al-Sadr to Iraq?
11. Will the recently completed annual review have any real impact on America's war in Afghanistan and Pakistan?
12. How can the US most effectively promote judicial independence in Russia?

Foreign Hotspots

1. How committed will Omar al-Bashir be to ensuring the survival of an autonomous Sudanese state?
2. Should a new nationwide election be held in Kosovo?
3. Has Prime Minister Maliki's compromises in forming an Iraqi government compromised his coalition's viability?
4. Can Israel afford a preemptive war with Iran?
5. Is Mali in danger of succumbing to radical Islamic forces?
6. Is Nigeria likely to see a resurgence of oil-based violence leading up to the presidential election?
7. Will an external show of force be necessary to get Laurent Gbagbo to step down as president of the Ivory Coast?
8. Are authoritarian changes in Venezuela poised to start a civil war?
9. Is Haiti finally on the road to recovery after its devastating earthquake?
10. Is the red shirt movement poised to make a rebound in Thailand?
11. How will the assassination of Salem Tasser impact Pakistani efforts to contain the Islamic insurgency?
12. Is the Japanese government prepared for the challenges posed by an increasingly aging population?

Hypothetical Scenarios

1. Al Qaeda announces it has acquired a portable nuclear device. How should the US alter its strategy in Pakistan in light of al-Qaeda's newly acquired weaponry?
2. President Obama announces the US will not withdraw from Afghanistan in 2011. How should NATO forces respond to America's willingness to stay in Afghanistan?
3. The No Labels Movement polls at 12% in June 2011. Are we likely to see a significant third party force in the 2012 presidential election?
4. Democrats retain a super majority in the Senate in the November 2010 elections. Is congressional gridlock imminent?



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5. Taiwan declares its independence from China. How should the US respond to Taiwan's recent claim of independence?
6. The New York Times stops publishing in print. How will the New York Times' decision to abandon print publications impact American journalism?
7. Obama refused to bailout the auto industry during his tenure. How can foreign auto manufacturers best capitalize on an ailing American auto industry?
8. British conservatives won the most recent parliamentary elections outright. How will a conservative victory in the UK impact the nation's special relationship with America?
9. The government of Yemen collapses in the wake of massive terrorist activity. How should Saudi Arabia respond to the collapse of the government in Yemen?
10. The African Union adopts a single currency for member nations. Will the AU's adoption of a new currency discourage international trade with Africa?

Twitter Authors *(Unique topic area; explanation provided at tournament)*

1. The Onion
2. Stephen Colbert
3. Sarah Palin
4. Robert Gibbs
5. Queen Rania
6. David Cameron
7. Nancy Pelosi
8. Eric Cantor
9. John McCain
10. The United Nations

Final Round: News in the 24 Hours Leading Up to the Final Round

1. How should India respond to America's decision to provide another military aid package to Pakistan?
2. Is the United States overreacting to the increase in Chinese military spending?
3. How will the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling against Wells Fargo impact the future of housing foreclosures in the US?
4. Is h rate sustainable?
5. How will the new freshman class in Congress impact the national reputation of the GOP?