

2015 OSAA Speech State Championships – Extemp Questions

Round One

Speaker One

1. Are African nations strong enough to counter the threat from Boko Haram?
2. Why have Spanish politics become so divisive?
3. Is the CDC insufficiently committed to public safety in its handling of deadly diseases?

Speaker Two

1. Can Tunisia's democracy survive the fallout of recent terrorist attacks there?
2. What can Dilma Rousseff do to restore her popularity with the Brazilian people?
3. Is free Community College good or bad for American higher education?

Speaker Three

1. Is the new Egyptian government restoring the confidence of Egypt's citizens?
2. What can be done to decrease parental resistance to childhood vaccination?
3. Is President Obama engaged in a "War on Coal"?

Speaker Four

1. Is Kenya prepared to resist the threat from al-Shabab militants?
2. Why is India's Congress party losing popularity?
3. Should the U.S. Supreme Court concur with the Obama administration's arguments and rule it unconstitutional for states to enact gay marriage bans?

Speaker Five

1. Are China's efforts to integrate Hong Kong into the nation's political and social systems failing?
2. What steps can be taken to curtail incidents of racist and sexist behavior by members of America's college fraternities and sororities?
3. Should the European Union accelerate plans to make more Eastern European countries members?

Speaker Six

1. Have West African governments finally contained the spread of Ebola?
2. What can America's schools and colleges do to protect athletes from the negative effects of concussion?
3. Will the warming of relations between the United States and Cuba lead to the full restoration of diplomatic ties?

Speaker Seven

1. Can the African Union succeed in bringing peace to war-torn South Sudan?
2. What can the world community do to address the global decline in fresh water supplies?
3. Is the Republican strategy to delay Loretta Lynch's Attorney General confirmation an effective one?

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Round Two

Speaker One

1. Is it in the best interests of Ukraine to let Russian nationalists separate from the country?
2. What can Saudi Arabia and its allies do to counter Iranian influence in Yemen?
3. Should the Supreme Court uphold Texas' decision to reject the making of vanity license plates bearing the image of the Confederate flag?

Speaker Two

1. Can the Greek government be trusted to honor its commitments to its creditors?
2. What can Iran do to strengthen its faltering economy?
3. Was the letter sent by members of the U.S. Senate to the leaders of Iran a treasonous act, as some have argued?

Speaker Three

1. Should former Soviet states fear the Russian military?
2. How will NASA benefit from its current missions to visit asteroids and other minor planets, such as Ceres and Pluto?
3. Should TSA officers in America's airports be armed?

Speaker Four

1. Has Marine Le Pen made France's National Front respectable?
2. How can Microsoft succeed at taking back market share from Apple and Android in the tablet and mobile markets?
3. Can a single government gain legitimacy over the entirety of Libya's territory?

Speaker Five

1. Will the rise in influence of the Scottish National Party threaten the maintenance of Britain's nuclear arsenal?
2. How can the United States best combat the threat from ISIS?
3. Can Americans expect lower oil and gas prices to last?

Speaker Six

1. Can any political opposition to Russia's Putin succeed?
2. How might the infamous No Child Left Behind Act be successfully redesigned?
3. Is Haiti's president starting to look like a dictator?

Speaker Seven

1. Can Turkey achieve a measure of peace with its often-restive Kurdish population?
2. How can the Democratic Party best position itself to reclaim a congressional majority in 2016?
3. Is Afghanistan's goal of a functioning unity government unraveling?

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Semifinals

Speaker One

1. Will Myanmar's conflict with its Chinese ethnic minority lead to open conflict with China?
2. How do security problems in Nigeria impact neighboring African states?
3. Are the recent failures of lethal injection drugs strengthening the argument for a nation-wide moratorium on the application of the death penalty?

Speaker Two

1. Can African organizations, such as the African Union, succeed in ridding the continent of dangerous Islamic insurgencies without outside help?
2. How will the proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank impact the economy of the region?
3. Several years after public concerns about bullying became prominent, have we made progress in curtailing the problem?

Speaker Three

1. Will Philippine President Aquino succeed in his goal of producing a lasting peace in mostly Muslim Mindanao province?
2. What can the European Union do to stem the flow of immigration from impoverished Balkan nations?
3. Should the federal government step-in to curtail antibiotic use in meat?

Speaker Four

1. Will the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank displace America as a leading influence among Asian nations?
2. What can Lufthansa and GermanWings do to restore corporate credibility after the recent crash in the French Alps?
3. Is Mitch McConnell an effective Senate Majority Leader?

Speaker Five

1. Could upcoming presidential elections jeopardize improving relations between China and Taiwan?
2. Why has there been a backlash against growing taxi service, Über?
3. Should Elizabeth Warren run for president?

Speaker Six

1. Can China, Japan, and South Korea succeed at bringing North Korea back to the nuclear bargaining table?
2. What about the allegations against Congressman Aaron Schock's justified his decision to resign?
3. Can Indiana restore its credibility with businesses offended by its religious freedom law?

Speaker Seven

1. What steps should India take to realize Prime Minister Modi's vision of "shining cities" in India's future?
2. Should the United States stop exercising its veto when it comes to the question of Palestinian statehood?
3. Should such a long period of American history with either a Bush or a Clinton in the White House or cabinet give American voters reason to pause before they vote in 2016?

2015 OSAA Speech State Championships – Extemp Questions

Finals

Speaker One

1. Does Canada's proposed anti-terrorism bill pose a threat to the individual freedoms of its citizens?
2. How is the stronger U.S. dollar benefiting American consumers?
3. Can Benjamin Netanyahu be trusted to support negotiations aimed at a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israel conflict?

Speaker Two

1. Do problems in the Secret Service reflect more badly on the presidency, or the service itself?
2. How will the fallout from the Petrobras bribery scandal impact the composition of the Brazilian government?
3. Is the Turkish government doing enough to prevent ISIS recruits from crossing its border?

Speaker Three

1. Does Nicaragua have the resources to succeed in creating a canal that can rival the Panama Canal?
2. Who is the best strategic choice for Republicans to select as their presidential nominee?
3. Are the mandates of Obamacare having a positive or negative impact on small businesses?

Speaker Four

1. Should prosecutors renew charges against Argentina's president and her closest associates?
2. Who is the best strategic choice for Democrats to select as their presidential nominee?
3. Can proposed regulations help limit the negative environmental impacts of oil fracking?

Speaker Five

1. Are Latin American nations, for the most part, making progress against government corruption?
2. What does the Obama administration mean when it says it is "re-evaluating" America's relationship with Israel?
3. Should President Obama more broadly employ his power of clemency and pardon for the remainder of his term in office?

Speaker Six

1. Has Venezuela's president failed to achieve the same popularity as his predecessor, Hugo Chavez?
2. What is the significance of the failure of Google Glass?
3. Can the Obama administration's plan to offer new services to welfare recipients increase the number of them who find jobs?

Speaker Seven

1. In his policies to combat teen pregnancy, is Ecuador's president blurring the lines between religion and politics?
2. What steps can western states take to combat the critical water shortage there?
3. Is the Obama administration being too flexible when it comes to nuclear negotiations with Iran?

SPARES

1. Has the NATO alliance done enough to support Ukraine and other Eastern European states from Russian encroachment?
2. Should South Africa exert more control over its nationals acting as mercenaries abroad?
3. Is NATO responsible for the deteriorating security situation in Libya?
4. Is the UN making any progress in combatting the use of torture?
5. Should the European Union create its own army?
6. Are the EU's sanctions against Russia in the best interests of the bloc's members?
7. Are ISIS and al-Qaeda in competition with one another?
8. Should ASEAN develop a peacekeeping taskforce?
9. Is NATO prepared to address Russian threats to its newer eastern allies?
10. Is the Vatican coming to terms with the legacy of sexual abuse by priests?
11. Is Jordan an important force in the fight against ISIS?
12. Can foreign support bring Iraqi forces to a level where they can drive ISIS from Iraqi soil?
13. Can any agreement forged with Iran over its nuclear program be trusted to succeed?
14. What is the likely purpose of recent provocations by Russian planes near NATO airspace?
15. Are Armenia's interests helped or hurt by its relationship with Russia?
16. Is Sinn Fein gaining strength in Irish politics?
17. Has the push for austerity by the European Union done more harm than good to debt-plagued southern European nations?
18. Will the recent test cheating scandal bring about changes to India's educational system?
19. Will recent talks lead to an improvement in relations between China and Japan?
20. Is Myanmar reversing course in its process of democratic reform?
21. Is China making progress in its fight against rampant air pollution?
22. Is Japan moving toward legislative acceptance of gay marriage?
23. Is Canada beginning to feel the threat of international terrorism?
24. Is Mexico gaining strength in its efforts to fight drug gangs and organized crime?
25. Can the Mexican educational system be improved?
26. Was the Canadian judiciary wise to strike-down a law banning the wearing of the niqab (face veil) by Islamic women taking their citizenship oath?
27. Can the Catholic Church broker a cease-fire among gangs in El Salvador?
28. Will President Obama's musings about the possibility of mandatory voting gain traction with the American public?
29. Should the federal government more aggressively regulate the use of aerial drones by private individuals?
30. Is Ben Carson a headache for the Republican Party?
31. Will Senator Robert Menendez's political career survive corruption charges?
32. Can entrepreneurs revitalize the economy of an embattled Detroit, Michigan?
33. Has participation in the Obamacare health system become too complicated for the average American?
34. Is the Affordable Care Act working?
35. Is tuberculosis making a dangerous worldwide comeback?
36. Should more employers allow their employees to work from home?
37. Will Ferguson, Missouri, emerge from the aftermath of the Michael Brown shooting better than it was before?
38. Should United States troops remain in Afghanistan after 2016?
39. Are U.S. sanctions against the government of Venezuela ill-advised?
40. Should the United States increase its foreign aid spending in Africa to counter growing Chinese influence there?
41. Should U.S. negotiators show greater flexibility with Cuba as they move toward normalizing relations?
42. Is racism still a problem in the United States military?
43. Are America's military service academies doing enough to help make women in the military the equals of their male counterparts?
44. Should the United States provide lethal aid to Ukraine?
45. Is sexual harassment and assault still a significant problem in the U.S. military?
46. Should the United States mandate the installation of alcohol interlock systems on all new cars in order to decrease drunk driving deaths?

47. Will the World Health Organization's report that the world's most used weed killer – Roundup - causes cancer, harm the Monsanto Corporation?
48. Will Smart Watches catch on as well as Smart Phones did?
49. Should automated driverless cars be allowed to appear on America's roadways?
50. Will anticipated changes to AppleTV upset the streaming television marketplace?
51. Are America's efforts to resupply the nation's dwindling Bison population meeting with some success?
52. Are businesses doing enough to protect consumers from identity theft?
53. Should the U.S. Supreme Court toss out Obamacare's contraception coverage provisions on religious freedom grounds?
54. Are college campuses becoming dangerous places for women?
55. Have attacks on the Common Core State Standards gained traction with voters?