

COUNCIL *on* FOREIGN RELATIONS

Council on Foreign Relations Resources
National Speech and Debate Association

High School International Extemporaneous Topic Areas

- Central Asia and Eastern Asia
 - [“U.S.-China Relations,”](#) Timeline, CFR.org, April 15, 2025.
 - [“Economics: South & Central Asia,”](#) Reading, Education.CFR.org, May 20, 2023.
- Environmental Issues
 - Alice C. Hill and Colin McCormick, [“The World Faces a Sharp Rise in Extreme Weather. Can AI Help?”](#) CFR.org, January 24, 2025.
 - Lindsay Maizland and Clara Fong, [“Global Climate Agreements: Successes and Failures,”](#) CFR.org, January 21, 2025.
 - [“How Regulations Help Fight Climate Change,”](#) Reading, Education.CFR.org, November 13, 2024.
- Europe (including Russia)
 - Max Boot, [“Is a Russia-Ukraine Cease-Fire Deal Slipping Away From Trump?”](#) Expert Brief, CFR.org, April 17, 2025.
 - [“War in Ukraine,”](#) Global Conflict Tracker, CFR.org, April 14, 2025.
 - James M. Lindsay, [“Germany’s Rearmament, With Sophia,”](#) The President’s Inbox, CFR.org, April 1, 2025.
 - [“Modern History and U.S. Foreign Policy: Europe and Eurasia,”](#) Reading, Education.CFR.org, February 8, 2025.
 - [“The European Union: The World’s Biggest Sovereignty Experiment,”](#) Reading, Education.CFR.org, February 14, 2023.

Explore www.cfr.org and education.cfr.org for more resources.

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- Global Human Rights
 - David J. Scheffer, “[Cambodia’ Descent Into a Death Spiral: Fifty Years On](#),” CFR.org, April 16, 2025.
 - Linda Robinson and Noel James, “[Women’s Power Index](#),” Tracker, CFR.org, April 1, 2025.
 - Mariel Ferragamo and Claire Klobucista, “[The Role of the ICC](#),” Backgrounder, CFR.org, March 27, 2025.
 - “[Statelessness Around the World](#),” Reading, Education.CFR.org, January 10, 2023.
- International Diplomacy
 - Lindsay Maizland and Clara Fong, “[Why China-Taiwan Relations Are so Tense](#),” Backgrounder, CFR.org, March 19, 2025.
 - Ray Takeyh, “[U.S.-Iran Nuclear Diplomacy Is Stirring: Is It Serious?](#),” CFR.org, March 11, 2025.
 - “[What Is Diplomacy?](#)” Reading, Education.CFR.org.
- International Economics
 - “[The Contentious U.S.-China Trade Relationship](#),” Backgrounder, CFR.org, April 14, 2025.
 - Jennifer Hillman, Helena Kopans-Johnson, and Inu Manak, “[Trade Tools for Climate Action: Green Goods](#),” CFR.org, April 6, 2025.
 - Richard Morrow, “[Why Sub-Saharan Africa Matters for U.S. Economic and National Security](#),” CFR.org, April 4, 2025.
 - “[What Are the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund?](#)” Reading, Education.CFR.org, July 25, 2023.

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- Militaries and Armed Conflicts
 - Mariel Ferragamo, "[A Third Year of war: Dried-Up Aid Pulls Sudan Further Into Chaos](#)," CFR.org, April 14, 2025.
 - Paul B. Stares, "[Conflicts to Watch in 2025](#)," CFR.org, January 2025.
 - Joshua Kurlantzick, "[Could the Myanmar Junta Rapidly Collapse Like al-Assad?](#)," CFR.org, December 26, 2024.
 - "[The Civilian Consequences of Conflict](#)," Reading, Education.CFR.org, October 03, 2024.
- Northern Africa and Western Asia
 - Ray Takeyh, "[Where the U.S.-Iran Nuclear Talks Are Headed](#)," Expert Brief, CFR.org, April 14, 2025.
 - Michael Froman, "[The Siege of the Red Sea](#)," CFR.org, March 21, 2025.
 - Kali Robinson, "[What is the U.S. Policy on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?](#)," CFR.org, July 12, 2023.
- Northern America and Central America
 - Phil McCausland and Matthew C. Waxman, "[Can the Courts Undo Trump's Deportation of Ábrego García?](#)," CFR.org, April 18, 2025.
 - Diana Roy, "[Who Controls the Panama Canal?](#)," CFR.org, January 29, 2025.
 - Shannon K. O'Neil and Julia Huesa, "[Trump and the Future of the USMCA](#)," Expert Brief, January 17, 2025.
- South America and the Caribbean
 - Diana Roy and Amelia Cheatham, "[Puerto Rico: A U.S. Territory in Crisis](#)," Backgrounder, CFR.org, January 8, 2025.
 - Diana Roy, "[How the Caribbean Is Building Climate Resilience](#)," Backgrounder, CFR.org, November 13, 2024.
 - "[U.S. Foreign Policy: The Americas](#)," Reading, Education.CFR.org, February 8, 2022.

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- South-eastern Asia, Southern Asia, and Oceania
 - Joshua Kurlantzick, "[Will the Earthquake Affect Politics and War in Myanmar?](#)," CFR.org, April 1, 2025.
 - Joshua Kurlantzick, "[U.S. Soft Power Is Spiraling in Asia, With China Filling the Void](#)," CFR.org, February 26, 2025.
 - Joshua Kurlantzick, "[Southeast Asia Responds to Trump Tariffs](#)," CFR.org, February 14, 2025.
- Sub-Saharan Africa (Eastern, Middle, Southern, Western Africa)
 - Michelle Gavin, "[South Sudan is a Test for the African Union](#)," CFR.org, April 2, 2025.
 - Ebenezer Obadare, "[A Question of Freedom](#)," CFR.org, March 31, 2025.
 - Michelle Gavin, "[Climate Change and Regional Instability in the Horn of Africa](#)," CFR.org, November 2022.
 - "[Geopolitics: Sub-Saharan Africa](#)," Reading, Education.CFR.org, February 8, 2022.
- The World Next Week
 - "[Conflict Between India and Pakistan](#)," CFR.org, April 24, 2025.
 - "[The U.S. Trade Deficit: How Much Does It Matter?](#)" Backgrounder, CFR.org, April 23, 2025.
 - Abi McGowan, "[Canada's 2025 Elections: Why the U.S. Is on the Ballot](#)," In Brief, CFR.org, April 22, 2025.

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High School United States Extemporaneous Topic Areas

- Arts and Entertainment
 - [“Big in China: The Global Market for Hollywood Movies,”](#) Reading, Education.CFR.org, December 17, 2022.
- Education
 - Roger W. Ferguson Jr., [“Renewing America by Improving College Completion Rates,”](#) CFR.org, October 11, 2022.
 - Kevin O’Rourke, Katherine Leach-Kemon, and Theo Vos, [“The Kids Are \(Not\) Alright,”](#) ThinkGlobalHealth.org, August 21, 2020.
- Entitlements and Health Care
 - Thomas J. Bollyky, Laura Dwyer-Lindgren, Ali H. Mokdad, and Chloe Searchinger, [“The Ten Americas: How Geography, Race, and Income Shape U.S. Life Expectancy,”](#) CFR.org, December 10, 2024.
 - Maya Fransz-Myers, David Knapp, Jinkook Lee, [“Rethinking Insurance for an Aging Population,”](#) ThinkGlobalHealth.org, April 15, 2024.
 - Ashley Nies, [“Texas’s Persistent Problem,”](#) ThinkGlobalHealth.org, August 10, 2023.
- Environment and Energy
 - Mariel Ferragamo, Clara Fong, Diana Roy, Sabine Baumgartner, [“The Earth Experienced Another Year of Record Warming. The Climate Fallout Was Intense,”](#) CFR.org, April 22, 2025.
 - [“History of Climate Action,”](#) Timeline, Education.CFR.org, February 13, 2025.
- The Executive Branch
 - Ebenezer Obadare, [“Tropical Vibes,”](#) CFR.org, April 7, 2025.
 - Steven Levitsky, [“The Path to American Authoritarianism,”](#) CFR.org, March 24, 2025.

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- The First Amendment
 - Samantha Kiernan, Bayan Galal, Serena Tohme, Thomas J. Bollyky, “[Pandemic Protests: When Unrest and Instability Go Viral](#),” ThinkGlobalHealth.org, July 28, 2021.
 - Jonathan Masters, “[Trump’s Threat to Use the Military Against Protesters: What to Know](#),” In Brief, CFR.org, June 5, 2020.
- The Judicial Branch
 - Phil McCausland and Matthew C. Waxman, “[Can the Courts Undo Trump’s Deportation of Ábrego García?](#),” CFR.org, April 18, 2025.
- The Legislative Branch
 - Diana Roy, Claire Klobucista, and Amelia Cheatham, “[The U.S. Immigration Debate](#),” CFR.org, August 7, 2024.
 - Jonathan Masters, “[What are Economic Sanctions](#),” Backgrounder, CFR.org, June 24, 2024.
 - Jonathan Masters, “[U.S. Foreign Policy Powers: Congress and the President](#),” CFR.org, March 2, 2017.
- Science and Technology
 - Michael Froman, “[Unleashing American Innovation](#),” CFR.org, April 18, 2025.
 - Michael Froman, “[A New Golden Age of American Innovation](#),” CFR.org, February 28, 2025.
- Social Justice
 - Linda Robinson, “[Trump’s DEI Purge in the Military Puts U.S. National Security at Risk](#),” CFR.org, April 11, 2025.
 - Diana Roy, “[Here’s Where Trump’s Deportations Are Sending Migrants](#),” In Brief, CFR.org, April 9, 2025.
 - Mariel Ferragamo and Claire Klobucista, “[Fentanyl and the U.S. Opioid Epidemic](#),” Backgrounder, CFR.org, March 28, 2025.
 - David J. Scheffer, “[How America’s Credibility Gap Hurts the Defense of Rights Abroad](#),” CFR.org, June 5, 2020.

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- U.S. Economics and Business
 - Matthew P. Goodman and Allison J. Smith, “[American Views on Economic Leadership](#),” CFR.org, March 2025.
 - Rebecca Patterson, “[Mar-a-Lago Accord Is Not a Recipe for Success](#),” CFR.org, March 26, 2025.
 - Diana Roy, “[How Does Immigration Affect the U.S. Economy?](#)” In Brief, CFR.org, October 30, 2024.
- U.S. Foreign Policy
 - Diana Roy and Jonathan Masters, “[What Would Greenland’s Independence Mean for U.S. Interests?](#),” CFR.org, March 13, 2025.
 - Charles A. Kupchan, “[Trump’s Tall Task: Overcoming Domestic Division to Project Strength Abroad](#),” Expert Brief, CFR.org, November 6, 2024.
- The U.S. Next Week
 - Varun Sivaram, “[We Need A Fresh Approach to Climate Policy. It’s Time for Climate Realism](#),” CFR.org, April 7, 2025.
 - Shannon K. O’Neil and Julia Huesa, “[Trump and the Future of the USMCA](#),” Expert Brief, CFR.org, January 17, 2025.