

Impromptu Topics

Here are all the topics we will use for the impromptu speech assignment. These will be resorted and organized so each speaker has the choice between one very general topic and one more specific topic (currently, the topic list is simply in alphabetical order). I post these here so you can check to see if there are some topics that you know nothing about or if there are some words that you are unfamiliar with.

- Abortion should remain a legal procedure in the United States.
- Air-quality emissions standards should be increased for all vehicles.
- Bartenders and service staff should have the right to refuse alcohol to pregnant women.
- Cell phone receptions and wireless connections should be blocked from all college classrooms.
- Children of illegal immigrants should be given complete access to public services (public schools, health care, etc.).
- Citizens older than 80 should not be allowed to drive without supervision.
- College education should be free in the US.
- College professors should not use the classroom to advance their political philosophy.
- Consolidated ownership of media outlets by corporations threatens the free flow of information.
- Corporations should not be allowed to “outsource” jobs to labor markets overseas.
- Doctors should be paid and insured by the government.
- Employers should have the right to access sites like myspace and facebook when considering potential employees.
- Fast food companies should be held liable for obesity in their customers.
- Genetically modified organisms should be excluded from crop and livestock production.
- Illegal immigration should be punished as a felony with prison time.
- Intelligent design is a legitimate theory that should be taught in conjunction with evolution.
- Junk food should be barred from elementary and high schools.
- Laws should be passed that restrict the sale of violent video games to minors.
- Marijuana should be legalized.
- Military recruiters should not be permitted on college campuses.
- Native Americans should be maintain the rights to whale or collect shellfish on people’s land.
- Panhandling laws in the U-district should be more stringently enforced.
- Parking on campus should be free.
- Pharmacists should have the right to refuse birth control to their customers.
- Physician-assisted suicide should be made illegal across the country.
- Pornography should be illegal to produce or purchase.
- Prescription drugs should subsidized by the government.
- Professors should always make their lecture notes available before class.
- Public service (civil or military) should be a mandatory requirement for all U.S. citizens.
- Reducing the federal deficit should be a priority over government spending.
- Same sex civil unions should be granted the same rights as conventional marriages.
- Same-sex marriages should be banned in the United States.

- School uniforms should be mandatory for public educational institutions.
- Seatbelts should be optional for legal adults.
- Seattle taxes should be increased to build a new arena for the Seattle SuperSonics.
- Social security should be reformed to preserve public pensions for future generations.
- Stem cell research should be federally funded.
- Students should be required to complete a foreign language requirement to graduate from high school.
- Study abroad programs should be a requirement for all UW students.
- The “No Child Left Behind” law should be repealed.
- The Bush administration should focus more on domestic issues rather than foreign policy.
- The Federal Communications Commission is too strict when enforcing its censorship and decency laws.
- The federal government should have the right to monitor private emails for the sake of national security.
- The Federal Government should not provide funding for embryonic stem cell research.
- The government should be more proactive about fighting HIV.
- The Seattle of Seattle should overturn the current ban on smoking in public places.
- The United States of America should include women in the military draft.
- The United States should abolish the death penalty
- The United States should no longer use the electoral college.
- The United States should take action against Iran and its nuclear activity.
- The United States should withdraw its troops from Iraq.
- The University of Washington should establish a speech code to protect against hate-speech.
- The US court system should no longer use juries to determine trial verdicts.
- The US should adopt the Kyoto treaty and be a model for other nations to follow.
- The US should continue to give financial aid to a Hamas led Palestinian Authority.
- The US should implement a “guest worker” program for aliens currently living here.
- The US should liberalize its trade relations with Cuba.
- The US should remove its troops from Iraq.
- The US should take more severe measures to reduce global warming.
- The US/Mexican border should be more tightly regulated.
- The UW College of Arts and Sciences should remove its foreign language requirement.
- The UW should force the bookstore to lower its prices on required textbooks.
- The UW should have a zero tolerance policy on academic dishonesty.
- The UW should not use “affirmative action” in determining admissions to the university, programs, or graduate school.
- The UW should offer more small classes taught by faculty members.
- The UW should prohibit all file sharing on its servers.
- The UW should purchase land adjacent to campus to provide more affordable housing for students.
- There should be a campus pub at the University of Washington.
- Tuition rates for out of state students should be the same rate of the in-state residents.
- Universities should abolish the Title 9 requirement in varsity athletics.
- Universities should base their admissions primarily on grades and SAT scores.
- Universities should prioritize socio-economic diversity when admitting students.

- UW professors should be prohibited from making any one exam count for more than 20% of a final grade.
- UW students should not be graded on attendance or participation.
- UW tuition should be the same for both in-state and out-of-state students.
- Washington should remove the WASL.
- We should drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- Wealthy countries should be more tolerant in admitting immigrants.