

2023 FALL MASQ EXTEMPORANEOUS SPEAKING QUESTIONS

PRELIMINARY ROUND TOPICS

- Are alleged military ties between Iran and Russia a game changer for the Russo-Ukrainian War?
- Are anti-junta forces on the verge of a major breakthrough against the Myanmar government?
- Are federal law enforcement officials doing enough to mitigate the impact of the fentanyl crisis?
- Are organizations like ECOWAS and the AU hampered by a lack of cooperation between member states?
- Are South Africa's foreign policy decisions isolating it from the international community?
- Are the GOP debates doing more harm or good for the Trump campaign?
- Are U.S. budget airlines in trouble following poor earnings reports?
- Are Western European nations on the verge of a political shift to the right?
- Can Javier Milei use his popularity to turn around Argentina's economic fortunes?
- Can President Muizzu deliver on his promise to remove foreign military personnel from the Maldives?
- Can the KMT party rally enough support to successfully challenge the upcoming Taiwanese presidential election?
- Has China begun a new wave of oppression against its Muslim minority?
- Has consumer confidence become an inaccurate indication of economic fortunes in the U.S.?
- Has India's alleged campaign against Sikh separatists damaged its international credibility?
- Has the meeting between President Biden and President Xi lead to a sustained decrease in tensions between the leader's nations?
- Has the time come for U.S. political parties to ask their elder statespeople to retire?
- Has the U.S. air traffic control system reached a breaking point?
- How can companies like Airbnb address concerns that their business model creates housing scarcity?
- How is coal making a quiet comeback as part of the U.S. energy supply?
- Is a cooling inflation rate enough to bring US housing costs under control?
- Is a historically tight labor market restricting the U.S. government's ability to control economic growth?
- Is a primary challenge against President Biden needed to reinvigorate the Democratic Party for 2024?
- Is climate anxiety a viable mobilizing force for citizens to pressure political leaders for solutions?
- Is Nigeria on the verge of an economic crisis brought on by high inflation?

ELIMINATION ROUND TOPICS

- Is organized crime a continuing problem in Italy?
- Is Qatar using their position in the Israel-Hamas conflict to become a regional peacemaker?
- Is saltwater intrusion the biggest threat to the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Katrina?
- Is the COP28 organization a pipe dream?
- Is the OpenAI saga a cautionary tale for the tech industry?
- Is the US military doing enough to redress historic acts against soldiers of color?
- Is the US military in danger of becoming "combat ineffective" in the face of decreasing recruitment numbers?
- Should federal action be taken to resolve irregularities in the Amber Alert system?
- Should the AU do more to regulate trade between its member states?
- Should Ukraine be worried about its future as its war with Russia prepares to enter a third year?
- Should US pipeline infrastructure be considered the next major investment priority?
- What can U.S. colleges and universities do to balance free speech and security concerns resulting from the Hamas-Israel conflict?
- What should the U.S. do to prepare energy-producing areas for the impact of a transition to green energy?
- What would be the position of Iraq should tensions continue to increase between Iran and the United States?
- Why has the international community not done more to prevent Pakistan's expulsion of Afghani refugees?
- Why has the transition to electric vehicles not caught on with American drivers?
- Why should GOP primary challengers have hope for the 2024 primary season?
- Will changing weather lead to increased disease outbreaks in tropical regions?
- Will Joe Manchin's decision not to seek reelection irretrievably harm the Democrat's ability to control the Senate?
- Will recent victories by entertainment and manufacturing unions spur a revival of organized labor in the US?
- Will the Amazon Basin see a record wildfire season in the next 12 months?
- Will the climate crisis trigger a new humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa?
- Will the conflict in Gaza drive a wedge between the EU and the United States?
- Will the Fed be compelled to raise interest rates to combat lingering inflation?
- Will the suspension of military agreements between North and South Korea lead to increased tension in the region?