

AD TESTING SERVICES  
2013-2014 UIL EXTEMPORANEOUS  
SPEAKING TOPIC SET 14

UIL  
EXTEMPORANEOUS  
SPEAKING TOPIC  
SETS FOR 2013-  
2014

## INTERNATIONAL PERSUASIVE TOPICS

**1. Will Russia be content now that Crimea has been annexed? Or can more political action be expected in the Ukraine?**

a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/30/world/europe/ukraine.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140330&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/30/world/europe/ukraine.html?emc=edit_th_20140330&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)

b. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26799326>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- Many fear that Russia is planning to seize more of the Ukraine
- Secretary of State John Kerry has had many meetings with his Russian counterpart
- Moscow says they have no intention of sending Russian troops into Ukraine

**2. Has Afghanistan made improvements in the way of political democracy?**

a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-26798922#>

b. <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47463&Cr=afghanistan&Cr1=>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- The election commission headquarters was recently attacked
- The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks
- Presidential elections are occurring in one week, regardless of the commotion the Taliban has promised.

**3. As the effects of global warming run rampant in Bangladesh, is there an international obligation to aid in this nation's economic efforts?**

a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/world/asia/facing-rising-seas-bangladesh-confronts-the-consequences-of-climate-change.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/world/asia/facing-rising-seas-bangladesh-confronts-the-consequences-of-climate-change.html?emc=edit_th_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)

b. <http://bdnews24.com/economy/2014/03/30/imf-happy-with-bangladesh-economy>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- Rising ocean levels are creeping into Bangladesh, which will negatively affect the nation's economy in the long run
- The IMF is pleased with Bangladesh's overall economic performance
- Bangladesh was never a key contributor to global warming, but they stand to face a lot of the consequences

#### 4. Is Recep Tayyip Erdogan destined to be an effective leader in Turkey?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/world/europe/turkeys-looming-local-elections.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/world/europe/turkeys-looming-local-elections.html?emc=edit_th_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-26807067>

##### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **Erdogan serves as the current Prime Minister**
- **His government has been accused of authoritarianism and corruption**
- **Erdogan had faced serious competition from Mustafa Sarigul**

#### 5. Is there future hope for a more functional relationship between China and South Korea?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/world/asia/south-korea-returns-bodies-of-hundreds-of-chinese-soldiers.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/world/asia/south-korea-returns-bodies-of-hundreds-of-chinese-soldiers.html?emc=edit_th_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304688104579466901196852522>

##### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **South Korea recently returned the remains of 437 fallen Chinese soldiers**
- **The soldiers were killed 6 decades ago in the Korean War**
- **This is symbolic of a warming relationship between the two nations**

#### 6. At this stage, is there hope of ever finding the remains of flight MH370?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/world/asia/missing-malaysia-airlines-flight-370.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/world/asia/missing-malaysia-airlines-flight-370.html?emc=edit_th_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/30/world/asia/malaysia-airlines-plane/>

##### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **The search zone keeps moving as new 'evidence' is reported**
- **At this point, aviation experts believe the plane went down west of Australia**
- **There is the issue of currents in the Indian ocean, and the incredible depth**

#### 7. Should more international resources be used to further develop NATO?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/27/world/europe/military-cuts-render-nato-less-formidable-as-deterrent-to-russia.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140327&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/27/world/europe/military-cuts-render-nato-less-formidable-as-deterrent-to-russia.html?emc=edit_th_20140327&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/30/us-ukraine-crisis-germany-nato-idUSBREA2TOBV20140330>

##### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **The program is currently facing cutbacks, making it a less formidable force**
- **More nations are using NATO forces, especially considering the Ukrainian crisis**
- **Some nations such as Germany are considering offering support to the NATO alliance**

## 8. Would Abdul Fattah al-Sisi be an effective Egyptian President?

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26747101#>
- b. <http://time.com/40403/egypt-sisi-president-election/>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- Sisi was Egypt's former Field Marshal
- He led the overthrow of President Mohammed Morsi
- He holds a lot of popularity in the nation and few serious rivals

## 9. Is a peaceful resolution likely for the people of Venezuela?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/26/world/americas/prottesting-in-venezuela-with-antipathy-toward-cuba.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140326&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/26/world/americas/prottesting-in-venezuela-with-antipathy-toward-cuba.html?emc=edit_th_20140326&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.foxnews.com/world/2014/03/30/armed-pro-government-militias-wreak-havoc-on-venezuela-protests/>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- The people are also frustrated with Cuba – saying the nation has leeches off of Venezuela's wealth
- Pre-government militias have formed in the nation
- Venezuelan President has done nothing but publicly discourage violence

## 10. In light of recent events, should more serious sanctions or punishments be dealt to Russia?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/world/europe/obama-russia-crimea.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/world/europe/obama-russia-crimea.html?emc=edit_th_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-26612848>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- The US and other allies recently cast Russia out of the 'Group of 8'
- Thus far, the US has invoked economic sanctions on select Russian banks
- The international community has threatened more sanctions should Russia become more aggressive

## DOMESTIC PERSUASIVE TOPICS

**1. President Obama recently called for an end to the NSA's Bulk Data Collection policy. Could this be considered effective damage control, or is this effort too little too late?**

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/obama-to-seek-nsa-curb-on-call-data.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/obama-to-seek-nsa-curb-on-call-data.html?emc=edit_th_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.wired.com/2014/01/obama-nsa/>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The President aim to specifically end the bulk retention of records associated with every phone call made to and from the United States**
- **The plan preserves the government's ability to access to phone records that would be kept by a non-government entity**
- **Originally, call information was collected as part of the Patriot Act to help detect and deter terrorism**

**2. Should GM face more serious federal penalties in light of the companies massive vehicle recall?**

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/business/carmaker-misled-grieving-families-on-a-lethal-flaw.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/business/carmaker-misled-grieving-families-on-a-lethal-flaw.html?emc=edit_th_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/30/business/total-of-gm-vehicle-recalls-in-2014-hits-4-8-million.html>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The company has so far recalled 4.8 million vehicles in 2014 alone**
- **It has been seen that GM covered up knowledge of life-threatening defects**
- **Several government investigations are underway**

**3. Is there anyway Oso, Washington could have avoided the deadly effects of its recent mudslide?**

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/search-continues-after-washington-state-landslide.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/search-continues-after-washington-state-landslide.html?emc=edit_th_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/03/140327-washington-state-mudslide-speed-science/>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The slide was so large and so quick, that there was truly little hope for escape**
- **The slide covered nearly a square mile of land**
- **The slide occurred on a Saturday, meaning many were off school and work and likely to be at home anyway**

**4. Could the sweeping gun legislation proposed by the State of Georgia be the start of a new nation-wide political trend?**

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/amid-wave-of-pro-gun-legislation-georgia-proposes-sweeping-law.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/amid-wave-of-pro-gun-legislation-georgia-proposes-sweeping-law.html?emc=edit_th_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/insight/2014/03/30/1-georgias-sweeping-bill-is-all-but-finalized.html>

**Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The new Georgia legislation allows guns in bars, schools, restaurants, churches and airports**
- **The trend is favorable in many Republican-controlled states in the South and West**
- **Many see it as a strengthening of the ‘Stand Your Ground’ laws**

**5. In the past several days, seismic activity has rocked Los Angeles, California yet again. Is the area prepared for a large-scale earthquake event?**

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/30/us/quake.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140330&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/30/us/quake.html?emc=edit_th_20140330&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/31/us/for-californians-2-quakes-put-preparedness-back-on-the-map.html>

**Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The recent 5.1 magnitude earthquake has brought 115 aftershocks so far**
- **Water main ruptures, property damage, and minor injuries came out of the last earthquake**
- **The area has been quiet of earthquakes for almost 20 years**

**6. As internal investigations regarding the closing of lanes on the George Washington Bridge in New Jersey continue, is Governor Chris Christie likely to emerge unscathed?**

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/nyregion/chris-christie-lawyer-bridge-scandal-report.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/nyregion/chris-christie-lawyer-bridge-scandal-report.html?emc=edit_th_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/27/chris-christie-george-washington-bridge-closures>

**Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **Investigations are now saying the Christie knew of the lane closures**
- **Inquiries however are placing the blame on Christie’s chief staff members**
- **\$1 million in taxpayer money has been used in New Jersey as the inquiries and investigations continue**

## **7. Should the Obama Administration be doing more to curb the United States' role in greenhouse emissions?**

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/us/politics/white-house-unveils-plans-to-cut-methane-emissions.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/us/politics/white-house-unveils-plans-to-cut-methane-emissions.html?emc=edit_th_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.heraldonline.com/2014/03/26/5808351/obama-administration-proposal.html?sp=/100/773/385/>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The administration is currently targeting methane emissions**
- **Other Administration proposals could actually increase greenhouse gas emissions**
- **The Administration is trying to lower greenhouse gas emissions 17% below 2005 levels by 2020**

## **8. Following an inmate's death at Rikers Island, should sweeping investigations be made in all New York jails containing mentally ill inmates?**

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/26/nyregion/complaint-by-fired-correction-officer-adds-details-about-a-death-at-rikers-island.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140326&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/26/nyregion/complaint-by-fired-correction-officer-adds-details-about-a-death-at-rikers-island.html?emc=edit_th_20140326&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.newsday.com/news/new-york/malfunction-neglect-found-in-rikers-inmate-death-1.7524562>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **A mentally ill inmate at Rikers Island died under the care of jail wardens**
- **Neglect and facility malfunctions were cited in the warden's investigation**
- **40% of New York's 12,000 inmates are mentally ill**

## **9. Is it possible that the American attitude towards Obamacare is changing to a more favorable opinion?**

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-26823837>
- b. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/30/us-usa-healthcare-idUSBREA2T06P20140330>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The deadline for enrollment was March 31, 2014**
- **Over 6 million people have signed up for the Affordable Care Act**
- **It is still uncertain whether the law will hold up in the long run**

## 10. Is March Madness taken too seriously in the United States?

- a. [http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/29/us/ncaa-tournament-final-four/?hpt=zite\\_zite3\\_featured](http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/29/us/ncaa-tournament-final-four/?hpt=zite_zite3_featured)
- b. <http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2014/mar/30/riots-arizona-campus-march-madness-basketball-ncaa>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The games between universities are becoming controversial and heated**
- **Riots broke out in Tucson, Arizona following Arizona's loss**
- **Not all universities have a habit of reacting so violently**



## INTERNATIONAL INFORMATIVE TOPICS

### 1. Why have UN courts halted Japan's whaling program in the Antarctic?

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-26818863#>
- b. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/31/world/asia/japan-whale-hunt/>

#### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **Australia brought the case to the International Courts in May 2010**
- **The court ruled the Antarctic expeditions were not for scientific research**
- **Australia argued that the event was a commercial whaling program in disguise**

### 2. Who is Pervez Musharraf?

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-26815518#>
- b. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/31/world/asia/pakistan-pervez-musharraf-treason/>

#### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **Musharraf was the former military ruler of Pakistan**
- **A Pakistan court has charged him with treason against the nation**
- **He was accused of unlawfully suspending the constitution and instituting emergency rule in 2007**

### 3. What are the details surrounding the return of the remains of 437 Chinese soldiers to Shenyang?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/world/asia/south-korea-returns-bodies-of-hundreds-of-chinese-soldiers.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/world/asia/south-korea-returns-bodies-of-hundreds-of-chinese-soldiers.html?emc=edit_th_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/china-soldiers-remains-return-decades-war-23094129>

#### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **The soldiers were killed during the Korean War 6 decades ago**
- **The remains had been held by the South Korean government**
- **Indication of warming relations between China and South Korea**

### 4. What is the current status regarding the search for MH370?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/world/asia/missing-malaysia-airlines-flight-370.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/world/asia/missing-malaysia-airlines-flight-370.html?emc=edit_th_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/world-news/missing-flight-mh370-live-black-3303664>

#### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **At this point, Australia is playing a major role in the search**
- **Evidence indicates the plane went down in the Indian Ocean**
- **A black box locator has been dispatched to the area**

## 5. Who is Abu Ghaith?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/27/nyregion/bin-ladens-son-in-law-is-convicted-in-terror-trial.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140327&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/27/nyregion/bin-ladens-son-in-law-is-convicted-in-terror-trial.html?emc=edit_th_20140327&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.latimes.com/nation/nationnow/la-na-nn-ghaith-trial-reaction-20140326,0,6877940.story>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **Abu Ghaith is the son-in-law of Osama bin Laden**
- **He was convicted by a federal jury of conspiring to kill Americans and other terrorism charges**
- **Ghaith's defense says the judge rushed the jury, and vows to appeal**

## 6. What will be the effect of the Crimea crisis on the European economy?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/27/business/international/european-banks-feel-effects-of-crimea-crisis-with-austria-bearing-brunt.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140327&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/27/business/international/european-banks-feel-effects-of-crimea-crisis-with-austria-bearing-brunt.html?emc=edit_th_20140327&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/21/eu-mobilises-trade-war-russia-crimea-ukraine>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **Austrian banks appear to be most at risk**
- **It is expected the western banks with a presence in Russia will see a profit squeeze**
- **The EU has effectively prepared for a 'trade war' with Russia**

## 7. What is the more recent news out of Brazil?

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-26809732>
- b. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2592608/Brazil-World-Cup-death-toll-rises-builder-dies-Sao-Paulo-football-venue.html>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **Brazilian government is still trying to subdue violence**
- **Military has pushed into the slums**
- **Workers continue to die in the construction process for the World Cup**

## 8. What are the details surrounding a possible 'Cinderella' emotional cruelty law in the UK?

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-26814427>
- b. <http://rt.com/news/britain-law-children-abuse-405/>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **Current child neglect laws have been criticized for focusing on physical abuse**
- **The law would prosecute parents who neglect their children**
- **The charity 'Action for Children' has rallied behind the Cinderella law**

## 9. What are the details surrounding an Ebola outbreak in Guinea?

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-26825869>
- b. <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/health/2014/03/31/ebola-outbreak-in-guinea-spreads-to-liberia-sierra-leone/>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The outbreak has already killed 78 in Guinea**
- **The virus is now spreading to Liberia and Sierra Leone**
- **Ebola is spread through close contact and kills between 25% and 90% of its victims**

## 10. Who is Sedki Sobhi?

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26774458>
- b. [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/sedki-sobhi-sworn-in-as-new-egypt-defence-minister-third-lead-114032701030\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/sedki-sobhi-sworn-in-as-new-egypt-defence-minister-third-lead-114032701030_1.html)

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **He is Egypt's new Defense Minister**
- **He succeeds Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi**
- **The former Defense Minister resigned to run for presidency**

## **DOMESTIC INFORMATIVE TOPICS**

### **1. What are the details surrounding the mudslide that occurred in Oso, Washington?**

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-26807482>
- b. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/30/us/washington-landslide/>

#### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The death toll has risen to 21 as 30 remain missing**
- **The landslide struck March 22**
- **A 177 foot wall of mud and debris struck the town on a quiet Saturday, devastating a residential area**

### **2. How will the ‘Bridgewater Scandal’ affect New Jersey Governor Chris Christie?**

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-26790106>
- b. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/03/27/christie-bridge-report-lawyers/6954081/>

#### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **Christie has denied any and all involvement in the transportation scandal**
- **A recent investigation has supposedly cleared Christie of the matter**
- **Christie is a strong front-runner for the 2016 Republic Presidential nomination**

### **3. What is the latest regarding the GM safety fault situation?**

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-26827824>
- b. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-03-31/gm-s-barra-bringing-legacy-of-safety-fights-to-congress.html>

#### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **A faulty ignition switch has been linked to a dozen deaths**
- **GM was recalled almost 2.6 million vehicles as a result**
- **GM’s Marry Barra is set to bring the issue to Congress as she testifies this week**

### **4. As the registration deadline approaches, how has ‘Obamacare’ stacked up in the eyes of the American public?**

- a. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-26780662>
- b. <http://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2014/03/30/obamacare-affordable-care-act-deadline-editorials-debates/7094601/>

#### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The plan has reached 6 million enrollees**
- **The registration process has hit technological glitches along the way**
- **It is neither the success supporters wanted nor the disaster opponents predicted**

## 5. What are the details surrounding a congressional approval to send \$1 billion in aid to Ukraine?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/world/europe/senate-approves-1-billion-in-aid-for-ukraine.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/world/europe/senate-approves-1-billion-in-aid-for-ukraine.html?emc=edit_th_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post-politics/wp/2014/03/27/senate-approves-ukraine-aid-package-sends-it-back-to-house-for-final-approval/>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The bill passed 399 to 19 in the House and by 98 to 2 in the Senate**
- **The bill approves aid to Ukraine and new Sanctions against Russia**
- **First step towards imposing truly significant costs on Moscow**

## 6. What are the details surrounding Facebook's intention on creating Internet by Drone?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/technology/a-new-facebook-lab-is-intent-on-delivering-internet-access-by-drone.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/28/technology/a-new-facebook-lab-is-intent-on-delivering-internet-access-by-drone.html?emc=edit_th_20140328&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.ajc.com/news/news/national/facebook-planning-use-drones-spread-internet/nfNtT/>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **The idea is to provide internet connectivity to everyone**
- **Facebook began efforts by buying British-based Ascenta**
- **'New ways of connectivity that dramatically reduce the cost'**

## 7. What are the details behind Obama's call to end bulk data collection?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/obama-to-see-nsa-curb-on-call-data.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/obama-to-see-nsa-curb-on-call-data.html?emc=edit_th_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/27/politics/obama-phone-data/>

### **Ideas to keep in mind:**

- **Part of a legislative proposal for an overhaul of the NSA's bulk record policy**
- **NSA would have to end its systematic collection of data regarding American calling habits**
- **Information would have to be collected from private companies via a warrant**

## 8. What are the details behind Georgia's new gun handling laws?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/amid-wave-of-pro-gun-legislation-georgia-proposes-sweeping-law.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/25/us/amid-wave-of-pro-gun-legislation-georgia-proposes-sweeping-law.html?emc=edit_th_20140325&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-03-25/how-to-understand-georgias-guns-everywhere-law-four-blunt-points>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **New laws would make it easier to take guns into bars, churches, airports**
- **The NRA calls the bill the most 'comprehensive pro-gun' bill**
- **Indication of how far gun control counteraction has spread**

## 9. What are the details behind the Obama Administration's plans to reduce methane emissions?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/us/politics/white-house-unveils-plans-to-cut-methane-emissions.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/29/us/politics/white-house-unveils-plans-to-cut-methane-emissions.html?emc=edit_th_20140329&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/03/28/us-usa-climatechange-obama-idUSBREA2R10P20140328>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas released by landfills and cattle**
- **Methane is 84 times more effective at trapping heat than carbon dioxide is**
- **The administration has vowed to reduce greenhouse emissions to 17% below 2005 levels by 2020**

## 10. Why have Golden Gate Bridge workers begun to consider installing a safety net?

- a. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/27/us/suicides-mounting-golden-gate-looks-to-add-a-safety-net.html?emc=edit\\_th\\_20140327&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/27/us/suicides-mounting-golden-gate-looks-to-add-a-safety-net.html?emc=edit_th_20140327&nl=todaysheadlines&nid=63066115)
- b. <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/golden-gate-bridge-long-suicide-magnet-safety-nets/story?id=23083432>

### Ideas to keep in mind:

- **In the last year alone, 46 committed suicide and 118 were stopped**
- **Directors of the Bridge are considering a suicide barrier as the number of suicides continues to rise**
- **The plan would call for a \$66 million stainless-steel net system 20 feet below the side walk**