Extemp Prep for Febryary 22, 2021

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*Directions: The following is a tournament worth of extemp questions focusing on three headlines from the previous week. Take time to practice answering each question, a simulation of current events at the time of this release, to keep you geared up for competition. Use the hyperlinks to read up on the latest for each topic.*

# Headline 1 (U.S. / Domestic): [Texas’ Snowstorms](https://www.cnn.com/2021/02/18/weather/texas-winter-storm-thursday/index.html)

* How should Texas locals respond to the recent snowstorms?
* How can the Texan government appease local power outages?
* What can be said about the effectiveness of wind energy in light of the Texas outages?
* What can be done to prevent further deaths due to the snowstorms in Texas?
* What should Texas do for the future to prevent power outages?
* Why has there been a boil water notice for nearly 7 million Texans?

# Headline 2 (World / International): [Africa and COVID](https://www.theepochtimes.com/updates-on-ccp-virus-africa-deaths-near-100000-after-second-wave_3701773.html)

* How is the new strain of coronavirus different from the last?
* What can Africa do to stop the spread of the new strain of coronavirus?
* Will Biden’s ban on travel to and from South Africa protect the US?
* Is the second strain of coronavirus in Africa more deadly than the first?
* Will the current COVID vaccine help with the second strain of coronavirus?
* Should other countries take extra precautions to protect themselves from the second strain of coronavirus?

# Headline 3 (Economy / Business / Tech): [Walmart](https://www.wsj.com/articles/walmart-promises-raises-for-425-000-workers-after-strong-holiday-sales-11613652639?mod=hp_lead_pos2)

* Will Walmart follow through with its promise to increase pay for its employees?
* Does Walmart have an obligation to pay its employees more?
* How was Walmart effected by the COVID-19 pandemic?
* Does Walmart really portray a “ladder of opportunity”?
* Why has Walmart’s stock been decreasing despite their success during the lockdowns?
* How would a minimum wage increase effect business like Walmart and Target?