

Extemp Topics

November 2014

DOMESTIC TOPICS

Business

1. What impact will Virgin Galactic testing accidents have on the future of commercial space tourism?
2. Should the FAA lift its ban on the commercial use of aerial drones?

Crime and the Courts

3. What steps should colleges take to improve their response to reports of sexual assault?
4. What factors have led to the flurry of courts overturning same-sex marriage bans?
5. Was the Grand Jury investigation into the killing of Michael Brown biased?
6. Is the media responsible for the intense community response to the police shooting in Ferguson?
7. Are Federal civil rights charges likely to be filed against police officer Wilson in the Ferguson shooting?

Economy

8. How would comprehensive immigration reform impact the U.S. economy?
9. What will the GOP sweep mean for the U.S. economy?

Education

10. What steps should schools take to ensure that students are college and career ready?
11. What steps should colleges take to improve their response to reports of sexual assault?

Election

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12. What should the Democratic Party learn from the 2014 midterms?
13. What should the Republican Party learn from the 2014 midterms?
14. Should Congress review the status of campaign finance for possible reform?
15. Should Mitt Romney run for President in 2016?
16. Are voter identification laws racially discriminatory?
17. What can be done to attract young voters to the polls for the 2016 presidential election?
18. Did private money buy the mid-term elections?

Employment

19. Why are fewer Americans applying for unemployment benefits?
20. What steps should be taken to boost stagnated U.S. wages?

Energy

21. How will the defeat of the Keystone XL pipeline bill by the Senate impact the oil industry?
22. Is the United States finally reaching a state of energy independence?
23. Should the American oil and gas industry be worried about sliding oil prices?

Government

24. Is bipartisan cooperation possible between President Obama and a Republican Congress during the final 2 years of his presidential term?
25. How has state legalization of marijuana impacted the Federal Government's view on the substance?
26. Is Loretta Lynch a strong candidate for Attorney General?
27. What should the 114th Congress and President Obama make their top priority?

Health/Health Care

28. How would a repeal of the Affordable Care Act affect the American public?

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29. Are America's hospitals prepared to handle a deadly epidemic?
30. Has President Obama's response to the Ebola crisis been sufficient?
31. Is a nationwide health information technology infrastructure necessary?

Immigration

32. Was President Obama wise to issue an executive order on immigration?
33. How should Congress respond to President Obama's executive action on immigration?
34. How would comprehensive immigration reform impact the U.S. economy?

Military

35. Should women be required to register for the military draft?
36. Should Congress approve a new "Authorization to Use Military Force" for Iraq and Syria?
37. Are the American people prepared for a long engagement in Iraq and Syria?

Miscellaneous

38. Does Detroit's bankruptcy deal put the city back on the road to recovery?
39. Is the media responsible for the intense community response to the police shooting in Ferguson?
40. What impact will Brittany Maynard's death have on the "Aid in Dying" movement?
41. Is Net Neutrality and Federal Government regulation of the internet a foregone conclusion?

National Security

42. Why is the closing of the prison at Guantanamo Bay such a "hot-button" issue?
43. What steps should America take to secure its Mexican border from infiltration by ISIS?
44. Should the NSA be subject to closer oversight of their activities?
45. Could a new Iraqi surge by the US Military defeat ISIS?

Politics

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46. What lessons should the Democratic Party take away from the 2014 midterms?
47. What lessons should the Republican Party take away from the 2014 midterms?
48. Has the image of the Democratic Party been irreparably damaged?
49. Who do Democrats have sitting on their presidential bench?
50. What do American voters care more about: Domestic affairs or foreign policy?
51. Is bipartisan cooperation possible between President Obama and a Republican Congress during the final 2 years of his presidential term?
52. Should Republicans consider Rick Snyder as a strong contender for the 2016 GOP nomination?
53. How is the continuing shift towards urbanization affecting American politics?

Space

54. What impact will Virgin Galactic testing accidents have on the future of commercial space tourism?
55. How should NASA respond to the European Space Agency's comet mission?
56. Is space exploration too risky?
57. Is the Air Force's X-37B space plane a dangerous move toward the militarization of space?
58. Is recreational space travel a viable possibility in our lifetime?

Sports

59. Is the criticism leveled at professional football over the off-field behavior of its players fair?
60. What steps should the National Football League (NFL) take to restore its image?
61. Should the mascot "Redskins" be banned in sports?

FOREIGN TOPICS

Africa

1. Can the threat of UN sanctions bring an end to the violence in South Sudan?
2. Does Nigeria have the ability to control Boko Haram's campaign of violence?
3. What can other Ebola stricken countries learn from Nigeria's relative success at limiting the impact of the disease?
4. Is Ebola still a significant threat to Africa?

Asia

5. How did China benefit from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit?
6. Will Hong Kong's government yield to any of the pro-democracy demands by protesters?
7. Is Abenomics responsible for Japan's recent recession?
8. Is China attempting to engage the US in a new cold war?

Europe

9. What does the future hold for Catalonia and Spain now that criminal charges have been filed against Catalanian leaders?
10. Is Europe the new leader in space exploration?
11. What is the significance of the European Space Agency's Rosetta mission?
12. Should the European Central Bank continue to provide measures to stimulate the European economy?
13. Is Greece well-prepared to exit its bailout?
14. How should PM Matteo Renzi respond to the growing protests in Italy against austerity policies?
15. If Britain left the EU would it be an "extraordinary act of self-destruction"?

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16. What does the future hold for relations between Scotland and England?

Middle East

17. What role should Iran play in the campaign against ISIS?
18. Can Jordan survive threats from the Islamic State and the flood of refugees entering the country?
19. Should Turkey take a stronger role in the fight against ISIS?
20. Is there any hope for an end to the conflict between Israel and Palestine?
21. Why does Iran believe that ISIS and the US are working together?
22. What impact would a Kurdish independence movement have on Turkey?
23. What steps should the Israeli government take to curtail violence in East Jerusalem?
24. Will the deployment of 1500 additional US troops to Iraq reduce the threat from ISIS?

Multi-National

25. Is the world on the brink of a new Cold War?
26. Why is the balance of power in the Pacific shifting?
27. What can be done to address the widening income gap between the world's richest and poorest?
28. Will the China-U.S. climate accord force other developing nations to set emissions targets?
29. Has the international response to the Ebola crisis been adequate?

North America

30. Should the U.S. provide weapons to the Nigerian military to combat Boko Haram?
31. Should the US government continue to seek the capture of Edward Snowden?
32. Should the US be worried about nuclear cooperation between Iran and Russia?

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33. What is the most significant foreign policy problem facing the United States?

Russia

34. What steps should the newly elected Ukrainian parliament take to restore stability to the nation?

35. How is Russia weathering the pressure of international sanctions?

36. Why is Russia planning to boycott a nuclear security summit hosted by President Obama in 2016?

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