Broadcasting (BRO): Breaking News PRACTICE (November 2026)

Note: this is just a practice breaking news. You will receive a different prompt at the tournament!

Directions: you have 2 minutes to read and take notes (you may take notes on this copy; each competitor will receive a clean copy). You then have to read the script as if "breaking news" from a prompter in a 2-minute timeframe.

Remember:

- *Have a sign-on/sign-off with a call sign. Consider transitions and commentary.*
- *Besides your sign-on/sign-off, please read ALL of the document. Please do not cut or edit the Breaking News material—read all of the material. There is about 90 seconds of performance material available.*
- *Your performance target time is 2 minutes.*
- *You will be evaluated on pacing, clarity, pronunciation of the performance, as well as transitions in and out of the broadcast.*

[START] (Insert Sign-On)

→ We interrupt your regularly scheduled broadcast with breaking news from New Orleans, Louisiana.

A tanker ship collided with a luxury paddle wheeler docked in New Orleans on the Mississippi River on Friday, causing the cruise vessel to roll over and sink as passengers scurried to disembark and dozens were flung into the water.

All aboard the stricken ship were accounted for after harbor personnel, firefighters and onlookers scrambled to pull fallen passengers to safety, New Orleans Mayor Helena Moreno told a press conference.

Hailing the outcome as "a miracle on the Mississippi," she said 32 passengers from American Cruise Lines paddle wheeler American Heritage were hospitalized, but "none with any type of critical injuries." Moreno said roughly 180 to 190 passengers and crew members were aboard the American Heritage at the time of the mishap. The cruise ship has a capacity for 150 passengers and was built in 2015, American Cruise Lines said on its website.

The accident occurred about midday when the tanker ship, the Atlantic Asphalt, "lost control and collided" with the docked cruise vessel, Moreno said.

As passengers began fleeing, the cruise ship started to sink and eventually "toppled over and flipped," dumping people into the river, the mayor said.

Harbor Police Chief Melanie Montroll said about 87 passengers from the American Heritage disembarked before the vessel capsized, according to the joint news site of the New Orleans Advocate and Times-Picayune *[PIK-uh-yoon].*

Moreno credited a swift response by local, state and federal personnel and bystanders from other vessels for preventing any loss of life.

The US Coast Guard said in an emailed statement that all river traffic was closed in the vicinity of the accident following the collision.

(Insert Sign-Off) [STOP]

Practice Rd 3: © Reuters https://www.reuters.com/world/us/freighter-collides-with-cruise-ship-new-orleans-passengers-water-2026-11-13/

Broadcasting (BRO): Editorial PRACTICE (November 2026)

Note: this is just a practice editorial. You will receive a different prompt at the tournament!

The following information is to help you create a **2-minute original editorial** on the issue "**Should a Four-Day Workweek Be Adopted?"** Do not just read the following information as your editorial. This is not a contest of editing, rather, it is a contest of writing an editorial. This is the only material provided for you that you can access. You have 30 minutes to prep.

Background:

In 1926, Henry Ford also enacted a five-day workweek—popularizing the concept of the two-day "weekend"—in Ford Motor Company factories, after previously having instituted an eight-hour workday. This shorter workweek was codified into law with the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1938. This act originally set the workweek at 44 hours per week but reduced it to 42 hours in 1939 and to the now-standard 40 in 1940; shorter workweeks were not only a key way of keeping more workers employed during the Great Depression, but employers also saw them as ways of reducing absenteeism and improving efficiencies. The five-day (in-person, on-site) 40-hour workweek remained standard until the COVID-19 pandemic (beginning in March 2020), when working at home with flexible hours became commonplace. The popularity of remote work emboldened the post-pandemic push for a four-day workweek.

Some arguments for a Four-Day Workweek:

- **Pro 1: A four-day workweek offers employees a better work-life balance, which translates into better mental health and a happier workforce.** A six-month U.K. pilot program in 2022, involving some 2,900 workers, revealed that 62 percent found it easier to balance work with their social lives, 60 percent found it easier to balance work with care responsibilities, and 54 percent found it easier to balance work with household jobs..
- **Pro 2: A four-day workweek means employees and companies can focus on essential tasks rather than those of questionable value.** The average white-collar employee spends 21.5 hours a week in meetings, and 47 percent of employees believe meetings to be the biggest time-wasters at the office. Plus, the average employee is interrupted 56 times a day while at work.
- **Pro 3: A four-day workweek is financially beneficial to companies.** According to journalist Caroline Castrillon, "Fewer work days also mean less frequent janitorial services. And if you factor in the daily perks that many businesses offer their employees, like snacks or free lunches, the cost savings increase even further."

Some arguments against a Four-Day Workweek:

- **Con 1: A four-day workweek increases pressure on employees, causing more, not less, physical and mental burnout.** Business professor Benjamin Laker argues, "For many employees, the expectation to deliver the same results in fewer hours means working at a faster pace, with little room for error or downtime."
- **Con 2: A fixed workweek of fewer hours is not the answer—workers want workplace flexibility and a quality work experience.** A Gallup poll found that "the quality of the work experience has 2.5x to 3x the impact of the number of days or hours worked."
- **Con 3: A four-day workweek is not only impossible in many industries but will deepen the divide between white-collar and blue-collar workers.** "I think 20% of the workforce, the most elite, are going

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to get more flexibility like unlimited vacation time and some of these things we've asked for," says management professor Lindsey Cameron. "For the remainder of the American workforce, it's going to stay mostly as it is."