

CONTESTANT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

# COPY EDITING CONTEST

## INVITATIONAL A 2025

This test is produced, and should be graded,  
using the 2024-2026 Associated Press Stylebook, 57th edition,  
in print or updated on or before June 1, 2024, online.

Students may use the AP Stylebook, dictionary and/or thesaurus  
during the exam.

### FOR JUDGE'S USE

Points from PART 1

Points from PART 2

FINAL PLACE

\_\_\_\_\_  
POINTS/15

\_\_\_\_\_  
POINTS/20

\_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL POINTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
FINAL PLACE

Part 3 is used ONLY in case of  
tie. Rank entries in order, but  
do not assign points.

There should be no ties.

**DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO!**

# RECOMMENDED EDITING MARKS

Students should use clearly understood editing symbols.

Students will NOT be penalized for using other symbols. It is up to the judges to determine if marks are "clearly understood."

¶ LEAGUETOWN, TEXAS — The organization	indent for paragraph
said Thursday. It was the first and last	paragraph
attempts.	no paragraph
With this the president tried	
the Jones Smith company is not	transpose
over a period of sixty or more years	use figures
there were 5 in the group.	spell out
former Captain Kirk attended	abbreviate
The Ala. man was the guest of	don't abbreviate
king charles said it was his	uppercase
as a result This will be	lowercase
the ac cuser pointed to them	remove space
In these times it is necessary	insert space
The order for the later devices	ignore correction
The ruling a fine example	insert word
according to the this source.	delete
	insert comma
	insert apostrophe
	insert quotation marks
	insert period
	insert hyphen
	insert dash
misspelled	Spelling errors should be corrected, not simply marked for correction.
mispeled	

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## INVITATIONAL A 2025

**DIRECTIONS:** This test is divided into three sections. Write all your responses as indicated. You have 15 minutes.

**PART 1: Circle the correct response. (1 pt. each)**

1. The gratitude for veterans is clear in the **cemetery / cemetary / cematary**.
2. Kamala Harris has a **3 AM / 3 A.M. / 3 a.m. / 3 o' clock in the morning** meeting.
3. Monday, **Oct. 7 / October 7 / OCT 7**, was the last day to register to vote.
4. The **F.B.I.'s / FBI's** report, which is the agency's final compilation of crime data for 2023, showed that there were about 2,500 fewer homicides in 2023.
5. The board of regents amended **its / it's / its'** free speech policy this week.
6. Many Cubans waited in anguish as electricity on much of the island had yet to be restored days after a **nation-wide / nationwide** blackout.
7. Florida high school **junior / Junior** Holly Neher threw for a touchdown on the first pass of her high school football career
8. For the **9th / ninth** straight month, Earth has obliterated global heat records.
9. She was eliminated on exactly the sort of "super short, tricky word" she said she concentrated on studying after **mispelling / misspelling / misspeling** "orle."
10. In Texas, the top 10 **percent / Percent / %** automatically get admitted.
11. The herd of longhorn cattle **grazes / graze** in the meadow.
12. The record-breaking **quasar / Quasar** shines 500 trillion times brighter than our sun.
13. Pep Guardiola is focused on winning, not on whether his team is **likeable / likable**.
14. Brett Favre was diagnosed with **parkinson's / parkinsons / Parkinson's** disease.
15. Postmaster General Louis DeJoy says the **U.S. Postal Service / Post Office / USPS** is ready for a flood of election mail

# UIL COPY EDITING INVITATIONAL A 2025

**PART 2: Edit the following sentences to eliminate/correct FOUR (and only four) errors in wordiness, AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation in each of the five statements below. Use clearly understood editing symbols. Spelling errors should be corrected, not simply marked for correction. Judges will consider only the first four corrections marked. Any others will be ignored. Compound errors such as changing "First Lady" to "first lady" will be considered as one error. (4 pts. each)**

You are editing material to be published in the Leaguetown High School (Texas) Press, Friday, Jan. 10, 2025.

**POINTS**

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <p>o 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>1. Despite they're best efforts, neither the teacher or the students was able to finish the project on time because they had began too late</p>   |
| <p>o 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>2. She go to the store on indigenous peoples day too buy some milk, but it was closed.</p>  |
| <p>o 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>3. Koda and his friends; Berkeley, Sugar, and Nacho — meet at the dog park everyday despite the politicing before the city council election.</p>  |
| <p>o 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>4. Chatgpt is a tool that helps students with there homework, it can't think like a human. When AI deviates from its large language model, it hallucinates. For that reason, none of the AI tools were appropriate for journalism work.</p> |
| <p>o 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>5. According to officials with the Central Bank, the US inflation rate was 2.4 percent, which is the lowest its been in three years.</p>  |

CONTESTANT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

## UIL COPY EDITING INVITATIONAL A 2025

**PART 3: In the space provided, edit the following news brief to make the wording clear and to eliminate wordiness as well as any errors in AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation. You do NOT have to rewrite the news brief. Make notes of anything you believe needs clarification, additional research or additional reporting. PART 3 WILL BE USED ONLY TO BREAK TIES BUT IS REQUIRED. In the event of a tie, if you do not make any effort on Part 3, your entire entry will be DISQUALIFIED.**

You are editing material to be published in the Leaguetown High School (Texas) Press, Friday, Jan. 10, 2025.

McALLEN — Laredo residents are free to use their water after an eleven-day boil water notice expired earlier this week.

City officials announced the end of the warning and pledged to address the factors believed to have caused the cities water crisis. Those factors include illegal connections to the cities water system and decades-old pipes that must be replaced.

Laredo mayor Victor D. Treviño announced the city would start an amnesty program for illegal water connections to encourage residents to come forward about possible violations after the city identified over 200 bad or illegal connections throughout there investigation.

“Since there were over 200 violations found just in the central Laredo area alone, I believe that stands to reason that there are many more in the city.” Victor Treviño said during a news conference Jan. 8, 2025.

The city lifted the boil-water notice for the entire city on Monday after having it in place since January. 2. It was first put in place when Escherichia coli was discovered in the water. A city of more than 256 thousand people, Laredo is one of the most populous to issue a boil-water notice after Houston did so in 2022.

More than 30% of the city’s water lines are over 50 years old, said Laredo city manager Joseph Neeb, adding that city officials intend to replace those pipes.

Modified from a story by Berenice Garcia published Oct. 23, 2024, in the Texas Tribune, “Laredo ends boil-water notice after 11 days, turns attention to illegal connections and old pipes” available online at <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/10/23/laredo-boil-water-notice-illegal-connections/>

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**PART 1: Circle the correct response. (1 pt. each)**

1. The gratitude for veterans is clear in the cemetery / cemetary / cematary.
2. Kamala Harris has a **3 AM** / **3 A.M.** / 3 a.m. / **3 o' clock in the morning** meeting.
3. Monday, Oct. 7 / **October 7** / **OCT 7**, was the last day to register to vote.
4. The **F.B.I.'s** / FBI's report, which is the agency's final compilation of crime data for 2023, showed that there were about 2,500 fewer homicides in 2023.
5. The board of regents amended its / it's / **its'** free speech policy this week.
6. Many Cubans waited in anguish as electricity on much of the island had yet to be restored days after a **nation-wide** / nationwide blackout.
7. Florida high school junior / **Junior** Holly Neher threw for a touchdown on the first pass of her high school football career
8. For the **9th** / ninth straight month, Earth has obliterated global heat records.
9. She was eliminated on exactly the sort of "super short, tricky word" she said she concentrated on studying after **mispelling** / misspelling / **misspeling** "orle."
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11. The herd of longhorn cattle grazes / **graze** in the meadow.
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**Notes for judges**

none.

**Tips for judges**

**Part 1**

There is some subjectivity involved in all editing. If you find an error in the answer key, report it to the UIL office

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You are editing material to be published in the Leaguetown High School (Texas) Press, Friday, Jan. 10, 2025.

1. Despite <sup>their</sup> ~~they're~~ best efforts, neither the teacher <sup>n</sup> or the students <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ able to finish the project on time because they had began too late ~~o~~

2. She <sup>went</sup> ~~go~~ to the store on indigenous peoples day ~~to~~ buy some milk, but ~~it~~ <sup>the store</sup> was closed.

3. Koda and his friends <sup>--</sup> Berkeley, Sugar, and Nacho — meet at the dog park everyday ~~o~~ despite the politicking <sup>k</sup> before the city council election.

4. Chatgpt ~~is~~ a tool that helps students with <sup>their</sup> ~~there~~ homework, <sup>but</sup> it can't think like a human. When AI deviates from its large language model, it hallucinates. For that

reason, none of the AI tools <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ appropriate for journalism work.

5. According to officials with the ~~Central Bank~~, the US inflation rate was 2.4 ~~percent~~ which is the lowest <sup>'</sup> its been in three years.

## Notes to judges

No. 4 – The student could choose to make the first two sentences actually into two sentences instead of one compound sentence.

## Tips for judges

### Part 2

There are four errors per item.

If fixing one error creates another, it counts as one.

There is some subjectivity in all editing. If a student finds another "error" or rewrites a sentence, the judges will have to consider how to award points.

This section is worth a maximum of 20 points.

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## Notes for judges

Note the day of publication. It has an impact on all the dates in the story.

more than, over Acceptable in all uses to indicate greater numerical value.

## Tips for judges

### Part 3

This section is ranked to break a tie in the combined scores of parts 1 and 2. Assign no points.

Judges should compare the papers of students who tied, ranking them accordingly.

When grading Part 3, holistically read the changes the student indicated starting with the highest level of editing. Remember, there are multiple levels of copy editing.

- Highest level: Are there any legal or ethical issues with the story?
- Middle level: Does the story use the right sources? Does it flow?
- Lowest level: Grammar, spelling, punctuation, style