

CONTESTANT NUMBER _____



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

COPY EDITING CONTEST

INVITATIONAL B 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	

COPY EDITING CONTEST

INVITATIONAL B 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. With “The Godfather,” art imitated mafia life. And **visa versa / vice versa**.
2. The new high school **principal / Principal / principle / Principle** established a friendly culture.
3. The teachers presented **they’re / their / there** suggestions to the assistant principal.
4. “Midnights” was released at **12 a.m. / 12 AM / midnight** Eastern time.
5. **February / FEB / Feb.** 2024 averaged 56.37 degrees Fahrenheit, breaking the old record from 2016 by about an eighth of a degree.
6. The latest **TV / tv / T.V.** subscribers statistics show Americans still watch cable.
7. Texas’ junk science law was the first of **its / it’s / its’** kind in 2013 and a model for other states across the country.
8. Marley is the **one-time / onetime / one time** state champion in editing.
9. Journalists may vote, but they are not allowed to endorse **and / but / or** campaign.
10. “Putin has repeatedly raised the specter of nuclear use,” said Steve Fetter, **dean / Dean** of the graduate school at the University of Maryland.
11. The **Fifth / 5th** U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals banned the use of affirmative action.
12. Hispanic enrollment dropped by 15% / **percent** in one year.
13. The City Council **conduct / conducts** normal business once a month.
14. The production of **Q-Tips / Q tips / Q-tips** will now be in a factory in Puerto Rico.
15. The book was **titled / entitled** “We’ll Prescribe You a Cat.”

UIL COPY EDITING INVITATIONAL B 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)

POINTS

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1. Generative artificial intelligence, are changing the way people learn by making it

more easier to create content. However, such tools can hallucinate. |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 2. The grizzly remains from a shipwreck washed up on the gulf coast. The rusting

remains of the 277 foot-long boat were discovered by residents. |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 3. While walking through the park, I seen three birds, they were chirping loudly and

flew over my head, flying South for the Winter. |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4. Most Texans cast paper ballots in the November 5 election. Less than one percent of

Texans will vote in counties that still rely on DREs for all in-person voters. |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5. A grand jury indicted the school principles for allegedly using there school e-mails

too encourage staff to vote for certain candidates in the March primary. |

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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 for the Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, issue of the Leaguetown School Press in Leaguetown, Texas.

EAGLE PASS, Texas — A former Eagle Pass Police detective this week was sentenced to a decade in federal jail for helping run stash houses for a human smuggling operation that smuggled nearly 200 migrants over the period of a year, according to federal prosecutors.

Between Sept. 2020 and Aug. 2021, Hazel Eileen Diaz, 54, rented out several properties in Eagle Pass, Texas, that were used to hold migrants and received \$36,916 in cash and money transfers, according to the US Attorney's Office for the western District of Texas.

Diaz was ordered to pay a \$10,000 dollar fine and a judgement of \$237,600. She also must forfeit three properties, a truck and \$23,522 in cash that was found in her possession when she was arrested.

The F.B.I., U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Border Patrol and the Texas Department of Public Safety investigated the case, which resulted in the arrest of two other people Dias worked with: Tomas Alejandro Mendez pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens and is scheduled to be sentenced in Jan., and Paola Nikole Cazares was sentenced last year to more than 5 years in federal prison on the same charge.

Modified from a story by Alejandro Serrano Oct. 24, 2024,
"Former Eagle Pass detective sentenced to 10 years in prison for running migrant stash houses"
available online at <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/10/24/texas-eagle-pass-police-officer-human-smuggling-prison/>

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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)

- With “The Godfather,” art imitated mafia life. And **visa versa** / **vice versa**
- The new high school **principal** / **Principal** / **principle** / **Principle** established a friendly culture.
- The teachers presented **they’re** / **their** / **there** suggestions to the assistant principal.
- “Midnights” was released at **12 a.m.** / **12 AM** / **midnight** Eastern time.
- February** / **FEB** / **Feb.** 2024 averaged 56.37 degrees Fahrenheit, breaking the old record from 2016 by about an eighth of a degree.
- The latest **TV** / **tv** / **T.V.** subscribers statistics show Americans still watch cable.
- Texas’ junk science law was the first of **its** / **it’s** / **its’** kind in 2013 and a model for other states across the country.
- Marley is the **one-time** / **onetime** / **one time** state champion in editing.
- Journalists may vote, but they are not allowed to endorse **and** / **but** / **or** campaign.
- “Putin has repeatedly raised the specter of nuclear use,” said Steve Fetter, **Dean** / **Dean** of the graduate school at the University of Maryland.
- The **Fifth** / **5th** U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals banned the use of affirmative action.
- Hispanic enrollment dropped by 1 **%** / **percent** in one year.
- The City Council **conduct** / **conducts** normal business once a month.
- The production of **Q-Tips** / **Q tips** / **Q-tips** will now be in a factory in Puerto Rico.
- The book was **titled** / **entitled** “We’ll Prescribe You a Cat.”

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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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)

1. Generative artificial intelligence ^{is} ~~are~~ changing the way people learn by making it ~~it~~
~~more~~ easier to create content. However, such tools can hallucinate.

2. The ^{grisly} ~~grizzly~~ remains from a shipwreck washed up on the gulf coast. The rusting
remains of the 277-foot-long boat ^{passive} ~~were discovered by residents.~~

3. While walking through the park, I ^{saw} ~~seen~~ three birds, they were chirping loudly and
flew over my head, flying ~~south~~ for the ~~winter~~.

Notes to judges

No. 2 – Passive voice in this sentence is unnecessarily wordy. Plus, it buries the main point about who discovered the grisly remains.

No. 3 – There are several ways to fix the sentence that is really two sentences.

4. Most Texans cast paper ballots in the November 5 election. Less than one percent of
Texans will vote in counties that still rely on DREs for all in-person voters.

5. A grand jury indicted the school ^{principals} ~~principles~~ for allegedly using ^{their} ~~there~~ school e-mails
to encourage staff to vote for certain candidates in the March primary.

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 to judges

¶1 – Except for cities that stand alone in datelines, use the state name in textual material when the city or town is not in the same state as the dateline.

There's a lot of passive voice in this article but that's typical with articles about judges and the courts to keep emphasis on the victims and perpetrators not on the judges and juries.

¶4 – Do not use the terms alien, unauthorized immigrant, irregular migrant, an illegal, illegals or undocumented (except when quoting people or government documents that use these terms). In this case, the actual charge included those terms.

¶4 – This is a mighty long sentence and students might split it into two or three.

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

EAGLE PASS, Texas — A former Eagle Pass ^g police detective this week was sentenced to a decade in federal ^{prison,} jail for helping run stash houses for a human smuggling operation that smuggled nearly 200 migrants over the period of a year, according to federal prosecutors.

Between ^g Sept 2020 and ^g Aug 2021, Hazel Eileen Diaz, 54, rented out several properties in Eagle Pass, ^g Texas, that were used to hold migrants and received \$36,916 in cash and money transfers, according to the US Attorney's Office for the western District of Texas.

Diaz was ordered to pay a \$10,000 ^g dollar fine and a judgement of \$237,600. She also must forfeit three properties, a truck and \$23,522 in cash that was found in her possession when she was arrested.

The ^g F.B.I., U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, the U.S. Border Patrol and the Texas Department of Public Safety investigated the case, which resulted in the arrest of two other people ^g Dias worked with: Tomas Alejandro Mendez pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens and is scheduled to be sentenced in ^g Jan. and Paola Nikole Cazares was sentenced last year to more than ^g 5 years in federal prison on the same charge.

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