

CONTESTANT NUMBER _____



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

COPY EDITING CONTEST

DISTRICT 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

DISTRICT 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 bacterium believed to be responsible **is / are** found in soil and grows in water.
2. It took 15 years and **alot / a lot / allott** of travel to get rid of the trinkets.
3. The Labour Party won Britain's election with 34 **percent / %** of the vote.
4. Dave was just promoted to a petty officer **2nd Class/ second class**.
5. At **\$228,807 / 228,807 dollars / two hundred twenty-eight thousand eight hundred seven dollars** a year, Sue Gray's pay was higher than that of her predecessors.
6. The Supreme Court's ruling on Texas' far-reaching abortion law seems clear: House Bill **two / too / 2** is unconstitutional.
7. The number of **Black / black** students increased.
8. The dreaded oak pollen arrives with **Spring / spring**.
9. I'd love to stay after school to practice editing, **and / or / but** I have to catch my bus.
10. A **writer's / writers' / writers** voice is the way his or her personality comes through on the page
11. The **O.S.H.A. / OSHA / the Occupational Safety and Health Administration** is developing new workplace safety standards because of rising temperatures.
12. The Texas GOP's fundraising dropped to **its / it's / its'** lowest level since 2017.
13. Texas held its 2024 primary elections **MAR / March / Mar.** 5.
14. I had four cups of coffee before **noon / 12 a.m. / 12 BC / 12 AM** today.
15. The Davos **concensus / consensus** was that Hillary Clinton would beat Trump in 2016.

UIL COPY EDITING DISTRICT 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. None of the 23 clarionet players, not a single one, were attending the Bands of America competition in Indianapolis, Ind., the principle said.

0 1 2 3 4

2. His mother said it is important for the 3rd graders to bring a jacket tommorrow when they visit the capitol for a tour that Texas lieutenant governor Dan Patrick will give.

0 1 2 3 4

3. The Armadillo Christmas Bizarre, a yuletide festival, concluded its 49th season December 23, 2024 at the Palmer Events Center.

0 1 2 3 4

4. In the US, the federal government took oversight of time zones in 1918 and daylight savings time began that March. In what workers said was politiking, lawmakers in 1966 decided that the time of day for this shift was 2 o'clock antemeridian.

0 1 2 3 4

5. Research has shown that doctors may spend less time with obese patients and fail to refer them for diagnostic tests. Farther, in Texas, there is inadequate healthcare access for American Indians.

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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 Saturday, March 24, 2025, issue of the Leaguetown School Press in Leaguetown, Texas.

In December 2021, Governor Greg Abbot traveled to south Texas to inaugurate the first 880-foot stretch of the state's newly constructed wall on it's border with Mexico.

At the press conference, with cameras zoomed tightly on him against a backdrop of the 3-story high, slatted wall in Starr County, the Republican Governor declared the barrier to be impenetrable. He banged a mallet on a metal beam to drive home his point.

"Its heavy, and its wide", he said assuredly. "People aren't making it through those steel bars".

Three years and \$3,100,000,000 later, Abbott may be right. Illegal immigrants and smugglers aren't breeching the bars. They don't have to because they can walk around them.

Today, that completed segment, now two miles wide, is an island of metal and concrete surrounded by farmland — hardly an obstacle for internally displaced people who have traveled sometimes thousands of miles to reach the US.

An investigation by "The Texas Tribune" has identified for the first time where Texas has built its border wall, information the state keeps secret as it pours billions into the highly-touted infrastructure project. It has revealed that the unprecedented foray into what has historically been a federal responsibility — Texas is the first state to build its own border wall — has so far yielded little return on billions of dollars invested.

The 50 miles constructed through Nov., totaling 6 percent of the 805 miles the State has designated for building, are far from the endless barrier Abbott often presents the wall to be in video clips he shares on social media. The wall is not a singular structure, but is dozens of fragmented sections scattered across 6 counties, some no wider than a city block and others more than 70 miles apart. Each mile of construction costs between \$17 million and \$41 million per mile, depending on terrain, according to state engineers.

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

1. The bacterium believed to be responsible **is** ~~are~~ found in soil and grows in water.
2. It took 15 years and **alot** / **a lot** / **allott** of travel to get rid of the trinkets.
3. The Labour Party won Britain's election with 34 **percent** / **%** of the vote.
4. Dave was just promoted to a petty officer **2nd Class** / **second class**.
5. At **\$228,807** / **228,807 dollars** / **two hundred twenty-eight thousand eight hundred seven dollars** a year, Sue Gray's pay was higher than that of her predecessors.
6. The Supreme Court's ruling on Texas' far-reaching abortion law seems clear: House Bill **two** / **too** / **2** is unconstitutional.
7. The number of **Black** / **black** students increased.
8. The dreaded oak pollen arrives with **Spring** / **spring**.
9. I'd love to stay after school to practice editing, **and** / **or** / **but** I have to catch my bus.
10. A **writer's** / **writers'** / **writers** voice is the way his or her personality comes through on the page.
11. The **O.S.H.A.** / **OSHA** / ~~the Occupational Safety and Health Administration~~ is developing new workplace safety standards because of rising temperatures.
12. The Texas GOP's fundraising dropped to **its** / **it's** / **its'** lowest level since 2017.
13. Texas held its 2024 primary elections **MAR** / **March** / **Mar. 5**.
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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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1. None of the 23 clarinet players, not a single one, were attending the Bands of America competition in Indianapolis, Ind, the principal said.

2. His mother said it is important for the 3rd graders to bring a jacket tomorrow when they visit the capitol for a tour that Texas lieutenant governor Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick will give.

3. The Armadillo Christmas Bazaar, a yuletide festival, concluded its 49th season December 14-23, 2024 at the Palmer Events Center.

4. In the US, the federal government took oversight of time zones in 1918 and daylight saving time began that March. In what workers said was politiking, lawmakers in 1966 decided the time of day for this shift was 2 o'clock antemeridian.

5. Research has shown that doctors may spend less time with obese patients and fail to refer them for diagnostic tests. Further, in Texas, there is inadequate healthcare access for American Indians.

Notes to judges

No. 1 – "None" usually means no single one. When used in this sense, it always takes singular verbs and pronouns.

Indianapolis The city in Indiana stands alone in datelines. So, the student might choose to delete the state. If it remains, it needs to be spelled out.

No. 3 – Just a reminder: AP also uses hyphens for ranges, such as Jan. 1-4.

No. 5 – The term American Indians is generally considered outdated. Generally use the term Native Americans in broad references when referring to two or more people of different tribal affiliations within the contiguous U.S. geographic boundaries.

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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“It’s heavy, and it’s wide,” he said assuredly. “People aren’t making it through those steel bars.”

Three years and \$31 billion later, Abbott may be right. Migrants and smugglers aren’t breaching the bars. They don’t have to because they can walk around them.

Today, that completed segment, now two miles wide, is an island of metal and concrete surrounded by farmland — hardly an obstacle for migrants internally displaced people who have traveled sometimes thousands of miles to reach the US.

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Notes for judges

¶4 – illegal immigration
Entering or living in a country without authorization in violation of civil or criminal law. Except in direct quotations essential to the story, use illegal only to refer to an action, not a person: illegal immigration, but not illegal immigrant.

The term migrant may be used for those whose reason for leaving their home country is not clear, or to cover people who may also be refugees or asylum-seekers.

¶5 – internally displaced person/people Avoid this jargon.

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 judging Part 3, holistically read the changes the student indicated starting with the highest level of 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