

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



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

# COPY EDITING CONTEST

## DISTRICT 2024

This test is produced, and should be graded,  
using the 2022-2024 Associated Press Stylebook, 56th edition,  
in print or updated on or before June 1, 2022, 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/10

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

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

Part 3 is used ONLY in case of  
tie. Rank the papers 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 <del>later</del>  devices	ignore correction
The ruling  a fine example	insert word
according to the <del>this</del>  source.	delete
	insert comma
	insert apostrophe
 	insert quotation marks
 	insert period
	insert hyphen
	insert dash
 misspelled <del>misspelled</del>	Spelling errors should be corrected, not simply marked for correction.

# COPY EDITING CONTEST

## DISTRICT 2024

**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. Texans were asked to conserve energy after 4 **PM / p.m.** as temperatures climbed.
2. A **biennial / biannual** international rugby competition starts in 2026 and will happen in even-numbered years thereafter.
3. The **NASDAQ / Nasdaq / National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations** composite is a major U.S. stock index.
4. More students fail chemistry than any other class. **Its / Its' / It's** hard.
5. The happiness that the **4 year old / 4-year-old / four year old** had was shattered.
6. Relja wasn't sure his guests would like the cake, **and / but / or** he made it anyway.
7. Do you sell a lot of **T-shirts / T Shirts**?
8. The **director of academics / Director of Academics** brought the rule change to the Legislative Council.
9. The professor told his students to read Chapter **six / 6** before class tomorrow.
10. None of the passengers **were / was** in the right seat, causing even more delays.
11. Gov. Greg Abbott issued a wildfire disaster declaration for about **75% / 75 percent** of Texas counties.
12. Nearly 270 American Airlines flights were **cancelled / canceled** early Friday.
13. The **effect / affect** of the new policy was to get students to class on time.
14. Leaguetown High School **principal / principle** Mark Whitfield resigned.
15. TxDOT employee Brad Shepard sweeps the road shoulder clean of the asphalt cold mix he put down on Interstate 35 in Austin in **August / Aug.** 2023.

TOTAL \_\_\_\_/15

# UIL COPY EDITING DISTRICT 2024

**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. (2 pts. each)**

**POINTS**

○ ½ 1 1½ 2

1. The scholarship money were divided between Sophia Lopez, Aki Wang, and Jake Martin, all of whom are in the top 5 percent of their class.

○ ½ 1 1½ 2

2. The team captain exclaimed it would be a longshot that he could throw a knuckle ball during a game of indoors baseball.

○ ½ 1 1½ 2

3. The nation's first-ever professional cricket match: and it was electric. MLC kicked off it's inaugural season when the Texas Super Kings took on the Los Angeles Knight Riders at Grand Prairie Stadium.

○ ½ 1 1½ 2

4. There have been several beneath the surface meetings between the 2 countries as the Bidon Administration applies a more sober approach to relations with the Kremlin.

○ ½ 1 1½ 2

5. Lay offs are among the most challenging life experiences. Causing more psychological stress than divorce, according to a study by Bobby McCombs, PhD/business.

TOTAL \_\_\_\_/10

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

## UIL COPY EDITING DISTRICT 2024

**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, April 6, 2024, issue of the Leaguetown School Press in Leaguetown, Texas.

LEAGUETOWN, TEXAS — For years, Texas drivers have complained about toll payment problems like double billing, rejected automatic payments, erroneous charges, and invoices with \$100s in late fees and fines authorities have acknowledged issues and solved some of them, but others have persisted.

Law makers have been hesitant to intervene in the states toll road system, a mishmash of agencies and contractors that generates more than \$2,000,000,000 a year and has improved mobility in Texas' largest metropolitan areas but often forces drivers to pay to get from one point to another — and deal with the frustration of an unexpected bill.

During the regular legislative session, lawmakers filed at least 9 toll-related bills, including proposals that sought to cap fines and fees, to eliminate misdemeanor charges for delinquent users, and to make toll roads free to use once the bonds issued to build them are repaid. Only one of those bills, HB2170, became law. It requires toll entities to notify users with electronic tags when an automatic payment is rejected. The law took affect Friday, September 1, 2023.

“The public is not adequately notified that hidden fees are getting into these bills,” said Senator Bobby Guerra, Democrat-Mission, who authored the bill. “They only know that they take there toll and all of a sudden their getting all these outrageous bills”.

Another bill from the House would've capped late fees to \$6 dollars per invoice and \$48 over a 12 month period. The legislature passed a similar law in 2017, capping late fees to the same amount, but it affected only tolls managed by TxDOT. This resulted in varying fee criteria among toll entities, sometimes subjecting drivers to different rules when moving within the same city.

Modified from a Texas Tribune story by Francisco Uranga, Aug. 18, 2023, “Texas drivers vexed by toll road payment problems got little relief from state lawmakers” available online at <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/08/18/texas-toll-roads-payment-problems/>

# COPY EDITING CONTEST

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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)

1. Texans were asked to conserve energy after 4 **PM** / **o.m.** as temperatures climb.
2. **A biennial** / **biannual** international rugby competition starts in 2026 and will happen in even-numbered years thereafter.
3. The **NASDAQ** / **Nasdaq** / **National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations** composite is a major U.S. stock index.
4. More students fail chemistry than any other class. **Its** / **Its'** / **It's** hard.
5. The happiness that the **4 year old** / **4-year-old** / **four year old** had was shattered.
6. Relja wasn't sure his guests would like the cake, **and** / **but** / **or** he made it anyway.
7. Do you sell a lot of **T-shirts** / **T Shirts**?
8. The **director of academics** / **Director of Academics** brought the rule change to the Legislative Council.
9. The professor told his students to read Chapter **six** / **6** before class tomorrow.
10. None of the passengers **were** / **was** in the right seat, causing even more delays.
11. Gov. Greg Abbott issued a wildfire disaster declaration for about **75%** / **75 percent** of Texas counties.
12. Nearly 270 American Airlines flights were **cancelled** / **canceled** early Friday.
13. The **effect** / **affect** of the new policy was to get students to class on time.
14. Leaguetown High School **principal** / **principle** Mark Whitfield resigned.
15. TxDOT employee Brad Shepard sweeps the road shoulder clean of the asphalt cold mix he put down on Interstate 35 in Austin in **August** / **Aug.** 2023.

### Notes for judges

No. 12 – cancel, canceled, canceling, cancellation.

### 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

# UIL COPY EDITING DISTRICT 2024

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1. The scholarship money ~~were~~<sup>was</sup> divided ~~between~~<sup>among</sup> Sophia Lopez, Aki Wang, and Jake Martin, all of whom are in the top 5 percent of their class.

2. The team captain ~~exclaimed~~<sup>said</sup> it would be a longshot that he could throw a knuckleball during a game of indoor baseball.

3. The nation's first ~~ever~~ professional cricket match ~~and it~~ was electric. MLC kicked off its inaugural season when the Texas Super Kings took on the Los Angeles Knight Riders at Grand Prairie Stadium.

4. There have been several ~~beneath~~<sup>under</sup> the surface meetings between the 2 countries as the Biden Administration applies a more sober approach to relations with the Kremlin.

5. Layoffs are among the most challenging life experiences, causing more psychological stress than divorce, according to a study by Bobby McCombs, who has a doctorate in business PhD/business.

### Notes to judges

No. 1 – "5 percent" should be "5%." Use figures. Use the % sign when paired with a number, with no space, in most cases (a change in 2019).

No. 3 - There are several ways a student could fix the improper use of the colon. One would be to replace it with a semicolon and add a verb to the first portion of the sentence. Replacing the colon with an em dash would also be OK.

### 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 10 points.

## UIL COPY EDITING DISTRICT 2024

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LEAGUETOWN, TEXAS — For years, Texas drivers have complained about ~~the~~ <sup>toll</sup> payment problems like double billing, rejected automatic payments, erroneous charges, and invoices with ~~hundreds~~ <sup>hundreds of dollars</sup> in late fees and fines authorities have acknowledged issues and solved some of them, but others have persisted.

Law ~~makers~~ <sup>makers</sup> have been hesitant to intervene in the states ~~toll~~ <sup>toll</sup> road system, a mishmash of agencies and contractors that generates more than ~~\$2,000,000,000~~ <sup>billion</sup> a year and has improved mobility in Texas' largest metropolitan areas but often forces drivers to pay to get from one point to another — and deal with the frustration of an unexpected bill.

During the regular legislative session, lawmakers filed at least ~~9~~ <sup>to</sup> toll-related bills, including proposals that sought to cap fines and fees, to eliminate misdemeanor charges for delinquent users, and to make toll roads free to use once the bonds issued to build them are repaid. Only one of those bills, ~~HB2170~~ <sup>to</sup>, became law. It requires toll entities to notify users with electronic tags when an automatic payment is rejected. The law took ~~effect~~ <sup>e</sup> ~~Friday~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~September~~ <sup>Friday</sup> 1, 2023.

“The public is not adequately notified that hidden fees are getting into these bills,” said ~~Senator~~ <sup>Rep.</sup> Bobby Guerra, ~~Democrat~~ <sup>Democrat</sup> Mission, who authored the bill. “They only know that they take ~~their~~ <sup>their</sup> toll and all of a sudden ~~they're~~ <sup>they're</sup> getting all these outrageous bills.”

Another bill from the House would've capped late fees to ~~\$6 dollars~~ <sup>\$6</sup> per invoice and \$48 over a ~~12~~ <sup>12</sup> month period. The legislature passed a similar law in 2017, capping late fees to the same ~~amount~~ <sup>the Texas Department of Transportation</sup>, but it affected only tolls managed by ~~the DOT~~ <sup>the DOT</sup>. This resulted in varying fee criteria among toll entities, sometimes subjecting drivers to different rules when moving within the same city.

Modified from a Texas Tribune story by Francisco Uranga, Aug. 18, 2023, “Texas drivers vexed by toll road payment problems got little relief from state lawmakers,” available online at <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/08/18/texas-toll-roads-payment-problems/>

## Notes for judges

¶4 – Bobby Guerra is a state representative, not a senator. This would be a mid-level error since the story mentions his House bill, House Bill 2170. Senators author Senate bills.

¶4 – party affiliation Short-form listings showing party and home city are appropriate in state stories. Set short forms such as D-Mission off from a name by commas.

¶5 – TxDOT often goes by the acronym. Still, most media outlets spell it out on first reference for clarity.

## 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