

CONTESTANT NUMBER _____



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

COPY EDITING CONTEST

STATE 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 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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STATE 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. He prayed he wouldn't have a **break down / breakdown** driving to Lubbock.
2. The United States and Russia stopped sharing **biannual / biennial** nuclear weapons data, something they historically did in March and August.
3. Police pulled the car from the lake **Nov. 4 / Nov. 4, 2023 / November 4, 2023 / Saturday, November 4, 2023.**
4. Tommy Chhe was named the **M.V.P. / MVP / Most Valuable Player.**
5. I've ratcheted up the classic **bacon, lettuce, and tomato sandwich / BLT** a notch or two here by adding tarragon to the mayo.
6. The legislature banned more books in **Kansas' / Kansas's / Kansases** schools.
7. The **70 year old / 70-year-old** went skydiving for the first time.
8. When the librarian brought out the **Bible / bible**, a replica of the one Gutenberg printed, to be photographed today, the senior pastor handled it with gloves.
9. A sports memorabilia auction house owner offered **\$2 million / two million dollars / 2 million dollars / \$2 million dollars** to the baseball fan.
10. A writer asked Charles and Emma whether they loved **one another / each other.**
11. A swarm of locusts **was / were** sighted approaching Odessa.
12. Neither the CIA nor its agents **is / are** on the record about the case.
13. **Everyone / Every one** who sees "The Exorcist" is frightened.
14. The speaker walked up on stage and stood behind the **podium / rostrum / lectern.**
15. He earned two **all-state / All-State / all state** medals in trombone performance.

TOTAL ____/15

UIL COPY EDITING STATE 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 Standard & Poor’s 500 is now in what Wall Street refers to as a Bull Market, meaning the index has risen 20 percent or more from it’s most recent low.

○ ½ 1 1½ 2

2. The Ninth Circuit asked the U.S. supreme court to clarify state law regarding negligent reproductive health care, in a 9 to 0 decision, the court rejected the government’s arguments.

○ ½ 1 1½ 2

3. During the pandemic, technicians who will clean ICUs worked through a gamut of infection risks to insure the facilities in the local hospital are running smoothly.

○ ½ 1 1½ 2

4. “Our job is to figure out what the cummmunity needs. Small towns are conservative.” Paige Bowman, Andrews County Librarian, said. “Its a challenge because we want to keep people happy and don’t want to ruffle feathers.”

○ ½ 1 1½ 2

5. “Most food aide returns to arab countries in northern Africa,” Colonel Bahre Tebeje said during the meeting in Kiev.

TOTAL ____/10

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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 Wednesday, May 15, 2024, issue of the Leaguetown School Press in Leaguetown, Texas.

On an icy Feb. morning in 2021, slippery roads and limited visibility prompted a chain reaction of crashing cars on I-35W in Fort Worth, eventually leading to a pile up of 133 vehicles that left 6 dead.

State Representative Terry Canales, Democrat-Edinburg believes a bill he authored — a bill that went into affect September 1, 2023 — could have prevented that.

“That’s an instance when we know there were conditions that led to a catastrophic pile up,” Canales said. “It was studied by the federal government and the National Highway Agency, and ultimately their findings were that variable speed limits could have mitigated and completely prevented this accident from happening.”

The altered speed limit would be in affect only when its’ posted on signs notifying drivers of the change and it can’t be lower than 10 miles per hour under the regular speed limit, typically 65 miles per hour. However, a drop of 10 miles per hour under the right conditions might mean less deaths.

“If we’re not able to alter or to modify the speed limit to reflect the current conditions, safety is in jeopardy,” Canales said.

In 2013, house bill 2204 allowed TxDOT to try a pilot program testing the effectiveness of variable speed limits. The agency set up variable speed limits in Temple, San Antonio, and Eastland Counties and collected data, which was analyzed by the TAMU Transportation Institute.

The bill passed the House by a 99 to 47 vote. It was approved in the Senate 25-6. Governor Greg Abbott signed it June 9, 2023.

Modified from a Aug. 22, 2023, Texas Tribune story by Noah Alcala Bach, “Starting Sept. 1 in Texas, your speed limit may vary based on local highway conditions” available online at <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/08/22/texas-variable-speed-limits/>

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- Police pulled the car from the lake **Nov. 4** / **Nov. 4, 2023** / **November 4, 2023** / **Saturday, November 4, 2023**.
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- The legislature banned more books in **Kansas** / **Kansas's** / **Kansases** schools.
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- Neither the CIA nor its agents **is** / **are** on the record about the case.
- Everyone** / **Every one** who sees "The Exorcist" is frightened.
- The speaker walked up on stage and stood behind the **podium** / **rostrum** / **lectern**.
- He earned two **all-state** / **All-State** / **all state** medals in trombone performance.

Notes for judges

No. 1 – breakdown = nouns and/or adjective; break down = verb

No. 5 – BLT Acceptable on first reference for a bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich.

No. 13 – every one, everyone
Two words when it means each individual item. One word when used as a pronoun meaning all people.

No. 14 – A speaker stands behind a lectern, on a podium or rostrum, or in the pulpit.

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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Notes to judges

No. 3 – There are several ways to fix the verb tense problem. Tenses need to convey a sense of time order. The simplest fix is to make all the verbs past tense – cleaned, worked, ran. Regardless, the student has to fix them all and therefore, this is one error.

ICU Acceptable on second reference for an intensive care unit. If ICU is used on first reference, give the full term quickly thereafter.

Use **assure** to mean to make sure or give confidence. Use **ensure** to mean guarantee. Use **insure** for references to insurance.

local Avoid the irrelevant use of the word. ICUs are always in hospitals.

No. 4 – There should NOT be a comma before "because." The second part of the sentence explains the challenge.

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.

- The S&P 500 ~~Standard & Poor's 500~~ is now in what Wall Street refers to as a ~~Bull~~ Market, meaning the index has risen 20 percent or more from its most recent low.
- The Ninth Circuit asked the U.S. supreme court to clarify state law regarding negligent reproductive health care. in a 9 to 0 decision, the court rejected the government's arguments.
- During the pandemic, technicians who will clean ICU worked through a gamut of infection risks to insure the facilities in the local hospital are running smoothly.
- "Our job is to figure out what the community needs. Small towns are conservative," Paige Bowman, Andrews County Librarian, said. "Its a challenge because we want to keep people happy and don't want to ruffle feathers."
- "Most food aide returns to arab countries in northern Africa," Colone Bahre Tebeje said during the meeting in Kyiv.

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Notes for judges

¶1 – see highway designations

¶3 – The national highway agency is not the proper name. Lowercase. The story is probably referring to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, but it's unclear.

¶6 – There's no Temple County or San Antonio County. Even if there were, "Counties" would have a lowercase c. Eastland is a county. The best fix is – "... Eastland County, Temple and San Antonio... "

TAMU = Texas A&M University

TxDOT = Texas Department of Transportation

¶7 – This is confusing. What bill? The 2023 bill was HB 1885. The 2013 bill was HB 2204. Perhaps switch the order of ¶6 and ¶7. It wouldn't hurt to put the number of the 2023 bill earlier in the story.

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

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"That's an instance when we know there were conditions that led to a catastrophic pile up," Canales said. "It was studied by the federal government and the National Highway Agency, and ultimately their findings were that variable speed limits could have mitigated and completely prevented this accident from happening."

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"If we're not able to alter or to modify the speed limit to reflect the current conditions, safety is in jeopardy," Canales said.

In 2013, house bill 2204 allowed ^{the Texas Department of Transportation} ~~TxDOT~~ to try a pilot program testing the effectiveness of variable speed limits. The agency set up variable speed limits in Temple, San Antonio, and Eastland ^{County} ~~Counties~~ and collected data, which was analyzed by the ^{Texas A&M} ~~TAMU~~ Transportation Institute.

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