WORTH NOTING...

IN NOVEMBER, 2002, THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY REPORTED THAT ONLY 17 PERCENT OF AMERICANS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 18-24 COULD FIND AFGHANISTAN, ISRAEL, IRAN OR IRAQ ON AN UNLABELED MAP OF THE WORLD. EVEN MORE DISTRESSING, ONE IN 10 COULD FIND NEITHER TEXAS NOR CALIFORNIA ON AN UNLABELED MAP OF THE U.S.
AND NOT MUCH HAS
CHANGED SINCE THEN.
"I don’t think [students today] are less informed than preceding generations. They are just less informed in general."

David Hazinski, Associate Professor
Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, 2013
“A vibrant democracy depends on a well-informed citizenry. As the world gets smaller, as the word gets more interconnected, the things that are going on in other countries will affect them too.”

Cynthia, Visiting Professor Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, 2013
## Political Knowledge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Could Name</th>
<th>Percent 1989</th>
<th>Percent 2007</th>
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<tr>
<td>Name Vice President</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>69</td>
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<td>State’s Governor</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>Party Controlling House</td>
<td>68</td>
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Source: Public Knowledge Of Current Affairs Little Changed By News And Information Revolutions, April 2007
<table>
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<th>News Source</th>
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<td>NPR</td>
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<td>Local Daily Newspaper</td>
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<td>CNN</td>
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<td>Local TV News</td>
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Source: Public Knowledge Of Current Affairs Little Changed By News And Information Revolutions, April 2007
YOUNGER AMERICANS (AGES 18 TO 34) ARE NOT AS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE NEWS AS ARE OLDER AMERICANS.

Source: Younger People Less Knowledgeable, April 2009
ABOUT THE CONTEST

• 40 objective questions
• Essay (10 points)
• 60 minutes
• Top score individual (objective plus essay)
• Top score team (objective only; top three individuals constitute team score)
WHO MAY ENTER?

- School may enter four students at district.
- Three individuals advance from district to regional to state.
- Four members of winning team advance.
Write a sample current issues and events question on the card.
WHAT AREAS WILL YOU COVER?

- War and conflict
- Politics
- Health
- Science/technology
- Economics (economy, deficit, unemployment)
- Media
- Crime
- Education
- Environment
- Awards /Honors (not entertainment)
ELEMENTS OF NEWS

- **Timeliness** — when?
- **Conflict** — political, ideological, cultural
- **Consequence** — what? why is it important?
- **Prominence** — who?
- **Proximity** — where? how?
- **Oddity** — unusual events that make the news
- **Human Interest** — newsmakers in a more human role
WHO QUESTION

Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?

A. Cardinal and Archbishop in New York City
B. Obama fund-raiser charged with fraud and violating campaign-finance laws
C. First Hispanic on the U.S. Supreme Court
D. Pope Francis of Assisi
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WHO QUESTION

Ann Johns, senior lecturer in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Texas, received an apology note from which political leader?

A. John Boehner
B. Hillary Clinton
C. Rick Perry
D. Barack Obama
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B. Hillary Clinton
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JANUARY 30, 2014 — President Barack Obama told employees at a manufacturing plant last month that “folks can make a lot more potentially with skilled manufacturing or the trades than they might with an art history degree,” he immediately countered by adding, “Nothing wrong with art history degree. I love art history. I don’t want to get a bunch of emails from everybody.”

Ann Johns, senior lecturer in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Texas at Austin, saw an opportunity to clarify some misconceptions about her field.

“I wanted to dispel any notion that art history is frivolous, and I wanted to dispel the notion that we are elitists,” Johns said.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Ann-

Let me apologize for my off-the-cuff remark. I was making a point about the job market, not the value of art history. As it so happens, art history was one of my favorite subjects in high school, and it has helped me take in a great deal of joy in my life that I might otherwise have missed.

So please pass on my apology for the glib remark to the entire department, and understand that I was trying to encourage young people who may not be predisposed to a four-year college experience to be open to technical training that can lead them to an honorable career.

Sincerely, [Signature]
Russia pulled most of its 40,000 forces away from the border of this country, a withdrawal the U.S. had been demanding for a long time after tensions continued to rise in the region.

A. Ukraine  
B. Belarus  
C. Poland  
D. Iraq
WHERE QUESTION

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B. Belarus
C. Poland
D. Iraq
According to scientists, what is the most likely cause of the baffling plague that destroyed thousands of U.S. honeybee colonies as part of what is known as Colony Collapse Disorder?

A. climate change
B. a virus, possibly imported from China or Australia
C. pesticides
D. parasites
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A. documents related to spying on American civilians
B. nuclear weapons housed in Midwest silos
C. ammunition, including bullets and missiles
D. overseas troop housing
Which Question

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The 2013 Texas Legislature passed more than 1,400 bills. About a dozen of them took effect in the fall of 2014. Which of the following was NOT one of these laws?

A. HB3896 revamping oversight of Jack County Hospital
B. HB1245 which allowed personnel working with attorneys to participate in educational programs already funded for judges
C. HB5 which required the State Board of Education to have six advanced career and technology education courses approved.
D. HB2 which required abortion clinics to meet the same standards as ambulatory surgical centers.
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C. HB5 which required the State Board of Education to have six advanced career and technology education courses approved.
D. HB2 which required abortion clinics to meet the same standards as ambulatory surgical centers.
What was Lindsay Lohan’s excuse for being arrested for cocaine possession and DWI?

A. No one is perfect.
B. I was overtired and working myself to death.
C. The drugs weren’t mine.
D. all of the above
NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS

Who cares?
Lindsay Lohan: A Timeline of All Her Arrests (and Boy, There Are a Lot of ‘Em)

Lindsay Lohan is undoubtedly more famous for her multiple arrests than she is for her acting.

After the Liz & Dick star’s latest bust early Thursday for allegedly assaulting a woman at a New York nightclub, E! News has assembled a handy scorecard of all of Lindsay’s run-ins with the law so you don’t have to.

Lindsay Lohan arrested for allegedly assaulting a woman at New York City nightclub

May 26, 2007: Lohan is charged with possession of cocaine after losing control of her Mercedes in a booze-fueled car wreck in Beverly Hills.

July 24, 2007: The actress is taken into custody in Santa Monica on suspicion of driving under the influence, driving on a suspended license and possession of cocaine after she gets into a verbal argument with a woman whom she chased in her SUV.

Aug. 23, 2007: Lohan pleads guilty to misdemeanor cocaine use and driving under the influence and is sentenced to one day in jail and 10 days of community service and placed on three years’ probation.

Nov. 15, 2007: Lilo spends a whopping 84 minutes in the Lynwood, Calif. jail before being released due to overcrowding.

Lindsay Lohan attended Justin Bieber concert prior to arrest

March 13-16, 2009: A Beverly Hills judge issues a $50,000 warrant related to Lohan’s May 2007 DUI arrest only to rescind it three days later after her attorney Shawn Holley shows that the starlet has been complying with the terms of her probation.

Oct. 16, 2009: The judge in her DUI case extends Lohan’s probation by an additional 12 months so she can complete her court-ordered alcohol education program, which she had up until that point failed to do given her ever-busy career.

May 20, 2010: Her probation is revoked and a bench warrant is issued for the thespian’s arrest.

Lindsay Lohan: The Making of a Hollywood Mess
May 20, 2010: Her probation is revoked and a bench warrant is issued for the thespian’s arrest after Lohan skips a court date to attend the Cannes film festival and then claims she couldn’t get back because, in the words of her attorney, “her passport was stolen.” The judge sets her bail at $100,000, which she later pays to win her freedom.

May 24, 2010: The trouble-prone party girl is fitted with an alcohol-monitoring SCRAM device on her ankle and ordered to refrain from drugs and booze and undergo weekly random drug testing as part of the conditions of her bail.

Lilo getting sued for Liz & Dick? Not so fast

June 8, 2010: A judge rules Lindsay’s in violation of her probation, hikes her bail to $200,000 and issues a new bench warrant for her arrest two days after Lindsay’s SCRAM ankle brace suspiciously lights up at an MTV Movie Awards afterparty. The warrant is subsequently recalled after a bail bondsman covers Lohan’s bond.

July 6, 2010: Lohan is sentenced to 90 days in jail for failing to attend her court-ordered weekly alcohol education classes.

July 20, 2010: Linds surrenders and ultimately ends up serving two weeks due to prison overcrowding and the non-violent nature of her crime.

Sept. 24, 2010: Lohan’s probation revoked after she flunks a drug test which found cocaine in her system.

Lindsay Lohan in Liz & Dick: The best and worst moments

Sept. 28, 2010: Lohan leaves jail and goes directly to rehab.

Dec. 12, 2010: During Lohan’s rehab stint, a staffer at the Betty Ford Center accuses the starlet of attacking her after she asks Lohan to submit to a drug and alcohol test. The charges are later dropped.

Feb. 9, 2011: Surprise! LL is taken back into custody after pleading not guilty to stealing a $2,500 necklace from a Venice jewelry store.

Apr. 22, 2011: Lohan is given 120 days in county jail and 480 hours of community service after a judge finds she violated her probation on the 2007 DUI. At the same time, her necklace-jacking charge is knocked down to a misdemeanor.

Lindsay Lohan’s alleged hit-and-run: Watch the surveillance tape

May 26, 2011: She’s released from L.A.’s Lynwood Jail due to overcrowding and serves out the rest of her stint under house arrest.

Oct. 19, 2011: The Mean Girls star has her probation revoked (again!) after she fails to perform her community service obligations. After being briefly detained, she gets out after posting $100,000 bail.

March 14, 2012: Lohan is accused of allegedly sideswiping a person with her car outside a Hollywood hotspot and then fleeing the scene. L.A. prosecutors decline to prosecute, citing “no direct evidence.”

March 29, 2012: The comeback kid finally completes the probation in her DUI case and is placed on informal probation for the necklace theft.

It seems to be Amanda vs. Lindsay, lately

Sept. 19, 2012: Lohan is arrested for allegedly clipping a man with her car outside New York City’s posh Dream Hotel and then leaving the scene. Manhattan D.A.’s office, however, opt not to bring charges, citing insufficient evidence.

Oct. 10, 2012: Cops respond to a disturbance call at the Long Island, N.Y. home where Lindsay is staying with her mother, Dina Lohan, after the two allegedly have a massive blowout. No charges are filed, however.
Argentina’s ruling left-leaning coalition has chosen its candidate for the October presidential elections. Who is it?

A. First lady Christina Fernandez de Kirchener
B. Gen. Javier Lozano Alarcon
C. Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo
D. Buenos Aires Governor Carlos Ruckauf
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Iran announced that it had reached its goal of running ______ centrifuges for uranium enrichment, a much higher number than recently estimated by the United Nations’ atomic agency.

A. 50  
B. 400  
C. 3,000  
D. 12,000
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This nation announced that it had reached its goal of running 3,000 centrifuges for uranium enrichment, a much higher number than recently estimated by the United Nations’ atomic agency.

A. North Korea  
B. Iran  
C. South Africa  
D. Israel
HOTEVER, I MIGHT ASK...

This nation announced that it had reached its goal of running 3,000 centrifuges for uranium enrichment, a much higher number than recently estimated by the United Nations’ atomic agency.

A. North Korea
B. Iran
C. South Africa
D. Israel
Which American president was responsible for the construction of the Affordable Healthcare Act, popularly known as Obamacare?

A. Ronald Reagan  
B. Gerald Ford  
C. Bill Clinton  
D. Barack Obama
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A. Ronald Reagan
B. Gerald Ford
C. Bill Clinton
D. Barack Obama
Which team won the 2014 World Cup Soccer tournament?

A. Germany
B. Brazil
C. United States
D. Argentina
World Cup Soccer, one of the world’s largest sporting events involving 32 countries and more than 3 billion viewers, brought more than $13.6 billion in tourism income to the host country. Which country?

A. Germany
B. Brazil
C. United States
D. Argentina
H O W E V E R ,  I  M I G H T  A S K …

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A. Germany
B. Brazil
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IMPORTANT TOPICS

- United States presidency
- National and state elections
- International conflict
- Iranian nuclear ambitions
- U.S. Supreme Court decisions
- The economy and significant economic events
- Global climate change including Texas drought
- Major scientific and technological developments
ANY RATIOS?

• No. I play it by ear depending on news flow. In an election year, you can expect a lot of national news. And, you might expect to see questions regarding Texas implications to a national story or event.
The essay matters.
Objective military observers do not feel ISIS terrorists have the capability to hit the United States with an attack on the homeland, but they could threaten the homeland because more and more members hold passports that would allow them unfettered access to America or American allies. Discuss the options the U.S. can take to diffuse this situation — now and in the future, noting any political, international or military implications that may need to be dealt with. Give details and use examples as much as possible.
Fast-food workers and others are advocating for an increase in the minimum wage. Why? Discuss the implications of such an increase generally and specifically as well as some history of the minimum wage.
Reflect on the meaning and consequence of this picture.
FROM THE CONSTITUTION

REPRESENTATION.

(1) Individual Competition. Each participant high school may enter as many as four individuals in the district meet, all of whom may place. In districts with more than eight schools, district executive committees may elect to limit entries to three.

(2) Team Competition. The individuals entered at district constitute the team. A team shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition.

The team score is determined by adding the highest three individual scores in the objective portion of the contest. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING

- Objective + essay score.
- Only top eight objective scorers advance to essay round.
About Individual Scoring Objective Questions

• Britney — 32
• Lindsay — 30
• Tara — 28
• Juan — 27
• Jayden — 26
• Sophia — 26
• Nicole — 25
• Hilary — 24

• Noah — 23
• Jacob — 22
• Mary-Kate — 21

All other contestants answered fewer than 21 correctly.

Top eight advance to the essay round.
# About Individual Scoring

Add the essay questions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>OBJECTIVE</th>
<th>ESSAY</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<td>Sophia</td>
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# About Individual Scoring

## Final Places

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<th>Objective</th>
<th>Essay</th>
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ABOUT TEAM SCORING

• Top three-member team determined by **objective scores only**.

• For example, TEAM A:
  
  Kevin — 29
  Brad — 26
  Jake — 25
  Matt — 21 (lowest score doesn’t count)

  Team score: 80
WHAT ABOUT THE WILD CARD?

- Best **second place** team among the eight districts in a region goes to region.
- Best **second place** team among the four regions in the state qualifies to the State Meet.
8 Districts per region
4 Regions in the State

- District 1 — 78
- District 2 — 72
- District 3 — 69
- District 4 — 83
- District 5 — 66
- District 6 — 81
- District 7 — 70
- District 8 — 68

- Region 1 — 81
- Region 2 — 77
- Region 3 — 72
- Region 4 — 83
WHAT IF THERE’S A TIE?
FOURTH TEAM MEMBER’S SCORE WILL BREAK TIE.

• District 1 — 78
• District 2 — 72
• District 3 — 69
• District 4 — 83
• District 5 — 66
• District 6 — 83
• District 7 — 70
• District 8 — 68

District 4 (83)
- Jennifer - 30
- Courtney - 27
- David - 26
- Matthew - 25

District 6 (83)
- Tony - 32
- Carmela - 28
- Meadow - 23
- A.J. - 19
BUT WHAT IF...

• Can a member of a team who did not place first, second or third at district but who advanced with the team then places first, second or third as an individual at region advance as an individual?

• Yes.
NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- USA Today
- Wall Street Journal
- Christian Science Monitor
- The New York Times
- The Washington Post
TEXAS METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPERS

- Dallas Morning News
- Houston Chronicle
- San Antonio Express News
- Fort Worth Star Telegram
- Austin American-Statesman
NEWS MAGAZINES

- Time
- Newsweek
- Texas Monthly
- US News & World Report
- The Economist
Radio, Television, Internet

- National Public Radio
- PBS
- The Daily Show
- ABC, CBS, NBC
- CNN.com, MSNBC.com, foxnews.com
- huffingtonpost.com
CUT-OFF DATES 2014-2015

- Invitational — Sept. 1 - Jan. 1
- District — Sept. 1 - Feb. 1
- Region — Nov. 1 - April 1
- State — Dec. 1 - May 1
CONTEST DATES 2014-2015

• District 1 — March 23-28
• District 2 — April 6-11
• Region — April 23-25
• State — May 26-28
GET STARTED NOW

- Organize your team
- Read CI&E Contest Manual
- Engage in social media
- Collect and store data
- Practice regularly
- Attend an invitational meet
- Practice writing and evaluating essays
- Have fun
QUESTIONS?