

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE  
**COPY EDITING CONTEST**  
**UIL COPY EDITING DISTRICT 2017**

**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 editor said she would go interview the **principle** / **principal** about the policy.
2. Reporters often **elude** / **allude** to academic studies the public can't comprehend.
3. We had **less** / **fewer** than \$1,000 in the student travel account.
4. SpaceX will build a spaceship that can fly faster **then** / **than** the speed of light.
5. Before the movie, they played a sneak **peek** / **peak** of the next Star Wars film.
6. The 8 **am** / **a.m.** band practice is mandatory.
7. The girl was only **16** / **sixteen** years old when she got admitted to college.
8. The meteorologist said **its** / **it's** going to rain today — with 50 percent certainty.
9. Queen Elizabeth began her **reign** / **rein** / **rain** in 1953.
10. *The Great Gatsby* was set in the **1920s** / **1920's**.
11. The actor and his director seldom agree with **one another** / **each other**.
12. Neither the choir members nor the director **is** / **are** going.
13. First place went to **whoever** / **whomever** got the highest score objectively.
14. "Thank you," the old man said. "**You're** / **Your** welcome," the Scout responded.
15. The Brazos and Colorado **Rivers** / **rivers** never intersect in Texas

**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 FOUR errors in wordiness as well as any errors in AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation in each of the five items. Use clearly understood editing symbols. (2 pts. each)

- Having won a ~~combined total of~~ nineteen Olympic and World Championship medals, Simone Biles is the most decorated American gymnast.
- The third in line to the British throne, Prince George of Cambridge, now three years ~~old~~, was born to Kate Middleton and Prince William Harry in 2013.
- The reporter asked, "Where is Aleppo?" But Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Johnson had some trouble recognizing the name of a major Syrian city.

## Tips for judges

- Part 2
- There are four errors per item.
- ~~Due to the fact that~~ two The 2 parties differed so greatly, they met on ~~the island of~~ Hawaii to develop a mutual agreement.

If fixing one error creates another, it counts as one. For example, in the fourth sentence, removing "mutual" requires the editor to change "a" to "an." That is all one error.

- Caleb Martin, a sophomore, said, "Every kid's dream was to catch Pokemon".

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.

To facilitate grading, put an X over the number of a question that is completely wrong. Write the point value assigned to each question out to the side. Award questions with either a 0, a 0.5, a 1, a 1.5 or 2.

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**Part 3: In the space provided, edit the following news brief to make the wording clear, 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 GRADED TO BREAK TIES.**

You are editing the article to be published the same day the statement mentioned in the article was released.

The Dallas Cowboys is a team name. "Team names and musical group names that are plural take plural verbs. The Yankees are in first place. The Jonas Brothers are popular."

Tom Landry is not the owner of the Dallas Cowboys. And owner isn't capitalized. "Owner. Not a formal title. Always lowercase: Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones."

Editing a direct quote requires discussion with the reporter. It's better to change direct quotes with errors into indirect quotations. Always make it clear who is speaking.

## Tips for judges

### Part 3

This section is ONLY 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. The notes off to the side on the answer key indicate higher levels of editing errors. Those should be awarded more value if the student fixes the problem or indicates it should be fixed.

- Highest level: Are there any legal or ethical issues with the story?
- Middle level: Does the story uses the right sources? Does it flow?
- Lowest level: Grammar, spelling, punctuation, style

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott smiled widely and playfully shoved Tony Romo after the ~~ten~~ year starter the Dallas rookie replaced finished his only ~~drove~~ of the regular season with a touchdown pass.

The Cowboys (13-3) don't anticipate using Romo in the play-offs. Prescott and fellow ~~1st~~-year sensation Ezekiel Elliott will be the focal point regardless of the opponent in the ~~1st~~ divisional game at AT&T Stadium, which opened in 2009. The Dallas Cowboys last ~~one~~ <sup>won an</sup> their NFL championship in 1996. ~~cut~~ Jerry Jones

Cowboys ~~Owner Tom Landry~~ has been bragging all season about the chemistry in a delicate situation between ~~their~~ <sup>the</sup> quarterbacks along with the closeness of the rest of the locker room and is counting on those bonds when Dallas opens ~~their~~ <sup>the</sup> play-offs series at home ~~January~~ 15.

"Eyes are all ~~one~~ <sup>the</sup> the play-off game" Prescott said, "we will wait to see who our opponent is. But in the mean ~~time~~ <sup>time</sup>, we will get better this week, ~~makes ourselves better in every way that we can~~. Then when we figure out who it is, ~~continue to get better and ready for that opponent~~ <sup>(we will)</sup>" ~~NEED TRANSITION~~ ~~Firstname~~

"Its not really a time for reflection," Garrett said. "This is a time to get ~~are~~ eyes forward and get back to work."

Modified from an Associated Press article distributed in January of 2017.