

ISSUES & EVENTS CURRENT CONTEST

BRADLEY WILSON, CONTEST DIRECTOR
2014-2015



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

COULD NAME	Percent 1989	Percent 2007
NAME VICE PRESIDENT	74	69
STATE'S GOVERNOR	74	66
PARTY CONTROLLING HOUSE	68	76

Source: Public Knowledge Of Current Affairs Little Changed By News And Information Revolutions, April 2007

NEWS SOURCE

	Percent In High Knowledge Group
DAILY SHOW/COLBERT REPORT	54
NEWSPAPER WEBSITES	54
NPR	51
LOCAL DAILY NEWSPAPER	43
CNN	41
LOCAL TV NEWS	35

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.

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.

RETURN IT AT THE END.

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
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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
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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

Aun -

Let me apologize for my off-the-cuff remarks. 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 remarks 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,



Sincerely,



WHERE QUESTION

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

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WHAT QUESTION

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- A. climate change
- B. a virus, possibly imported from china or Australia
- C. pesticides
- D. parasites

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WHICH QUESTION

According to a Government Accountability Office report released this spring, the Pentagon plans to destroy more than \$1 billion worth of which of the following?

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- B. nuclear weapons housed in Midwest silos
- C. ammunition, including bullets and missiles
- D. overseas troop housing

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WHICH QUESTION

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- 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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NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS

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?

NETFLIX THE ENTERTAINMENT OF TODAY



CLICK TO EXPAND



ALL NEWS PHOTOS VIDEOS TV SCOOP FABULIST E! SHOWS RED CARPET

Like 6.2m Follow

JOAN RIVERS
1933-2014



IRREPLACEABLE.

your family at

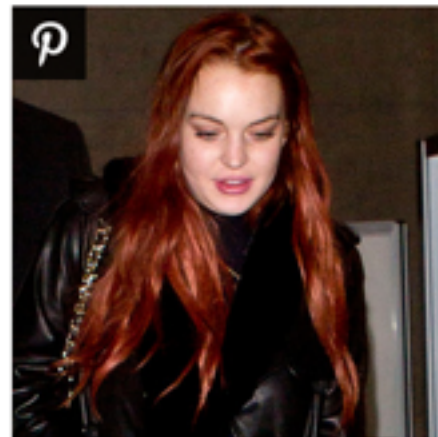


NEWS/ Lindsay Lohan: A Timeline of All Her Arrests (and Boy, There Are a Lot of 'Em)

by JOSH GROSSBERG

Thu., Nov. 29, 2012 10:59 AM PST

Like Share 421 Tweet 83 +1 26 Email



SPW/Splash News

Lindsay Lohan is undoubtedly more famous these days 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 collared on a charge of driving under the influence and possession of cocaine after losing control of her Mercedes in a booze-fueled car wreck in Beverly Hills.

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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. She then skips court dates, attends the Coachella festival and then skips

NETFLIX THE ENTERTAINMENT OF TODAY



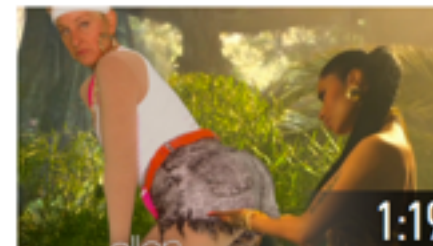
CLICK TO EXPAND

MOST READ



NEWS/ SAD ENDING

Wrestler Sean O'Haire found dead at 43 after apparent suicide



1:19

BATTLE OF THE BOOTY

This is what Nicki thinks of Ellen's "Anaconda" parody

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.

NEWS/ TOP STORIES



Hilary Duff Wishes Ex Mike Comrie Happy Birthday on Instagram



Get the Look: *Total Divas*' Brie Bella & Rosa Mendes!



Chrissy Teigen & John Legend Enjoy Romantic Vacay Ahead of Anniversary



Rihanna Is a Silver Fox in *Tush* Magazine



There's a Christian Mingle Movie (Seriously!): Watch the Trailer Now



Kelly Ripa & Michael Strahan's iPhone 6 Talk Turns Into Penis Joke

MORE



PHOTOS/ STAR IN STRIPES

NO IMPOSSIBLE STUFF

Argentina's ruling left-leaning coalition has chosen its candidate for the October presidential elections.

Who is it?

- A. First lady Christina Fernandez de Kirchner
- B. Gen. Javier Lozano Alarcon
- C. Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo
- D. Buenos Aires Governor Carlos Ruckauf

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NO NUMBER QUESTIONS

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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HOWEVER, 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
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NOTHING TOO EASY

Which American president was responsible for the construction of the Affordable Healthcare Act, popularly known as Obamacare?

- A. Ronald Reagan
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NO SPORTS QUESTIONS

Which team won the 2014 World Cup Soccer tournament?

- A. Germany
- B. Brazil
- C. United States
- D. Argentina

HOWEVER, I MIGHT ASK...

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?

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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

The essay matters.

THE ESSAY

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.

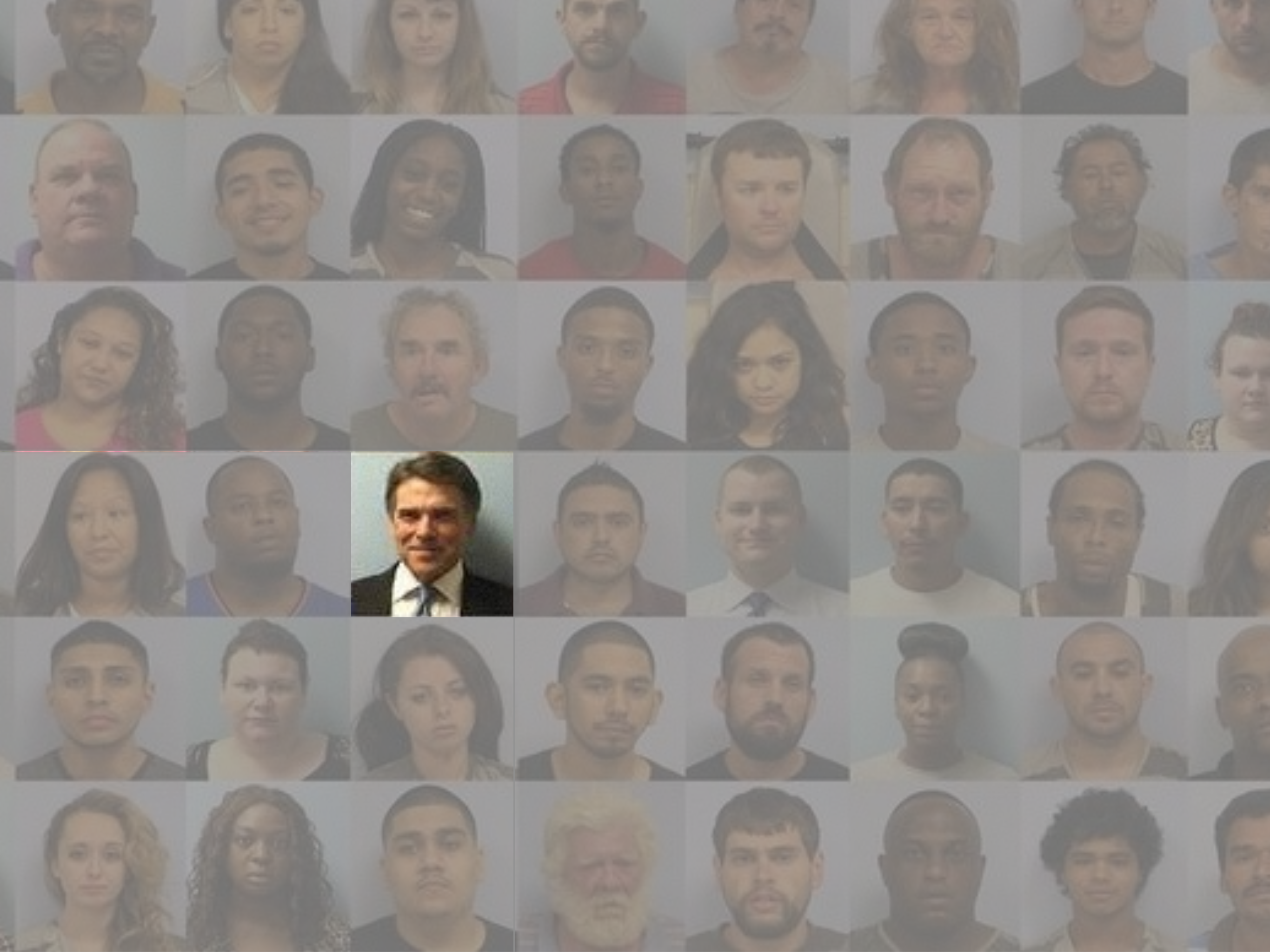
THE ESSAY

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.

THE ESSAY



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

NAME	OBJECTIVE	ESSAY	TOTAL
BRITNEY	32	5	37
LINDSEY	30	7	37
TARA	28	9	37
JUAN	27	10	38
JAYDEN	26	8	34
SOPHIA	26	5	31
NICOLE	25	3	28
HILARY	24	9	33

ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING

FINAL PLACES

NAME	OBJECTIVE	ESSAY	TOTAL	PLACE
BRITNEY	32	5	37	4th
LINDSEY	30	7	37	3rd
TARA	28	9	37	2nd
JUAN	27	10	38	1st
JAYDEN	26	8	34	5th
SOPHIA	26	5	31	
NICOLE	25	3	28	
HILARY	24	9	33	6th

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NICOLE	25	3	28	
HILARY	24	9	33	6th

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

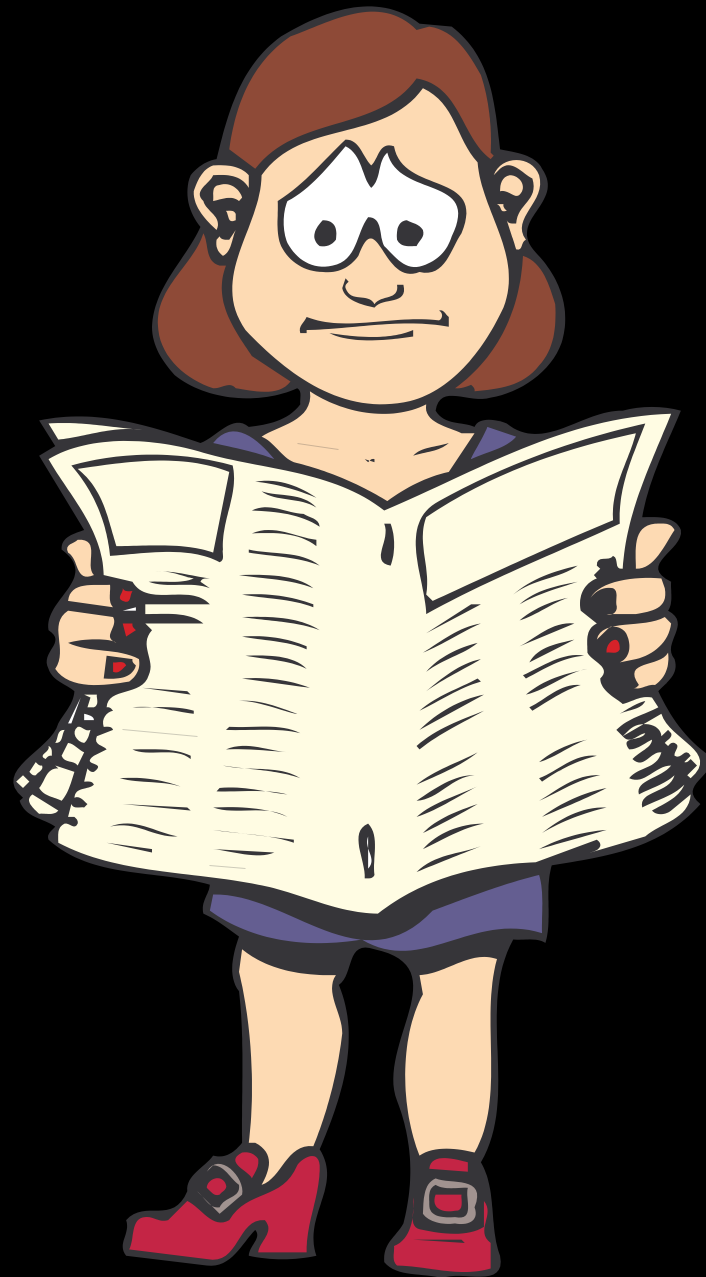
CUT-OFF DATES 2014-2015

- 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

FOLLOW CI&E



Texas UIL Current
Issues and Events



@uilciande
#uilciande

CONTACT ME



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QUESTIONS?