

#### FROM KALI GUINN, FLORIDA ELEMENTARY TEACHER

It is more important than ever for our students to learn to listen to various viewpoints, synthesize information, and form their own opinions. It's also important that they begin to see themselves as **actors of change** from a young age. Implementing current events in the classroom is a strategy that will keep students aware of real-world problems and situations.

#### AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

26% of respondents believe Brett Kavanaugh is the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and 14% of respondents selected Antonin Scalia, who died in 2016.

18% of respondents identified Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), a freshman member of the current Congress, as the author of The New Deal, a suite of public programs enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s.

#### AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

12% of respondents understand the relationship between the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment, and correctly answered that the 13th Amendment freed all the slaves in the United States.

#### ANNENBERG PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

53% of Americans think it is accurate to say that immigrants who are here illegally do not have any rights under the U.S. Constitution.

37% can't name any of the rights guaranteed under the First Amendment.

74% can't name all three branches of government.

### Americans prefer Miley to Syria stories by huge number

in

82

Maria Puente, USA TODAY Published 5:35 pt fr. ET Sept. ft. 2014 | Updated 5:46 p.m. ET Sept. 9, 2013

Americans would rather read about the latest transgressions by Miley Cyrus than the latest horrors in Syria. Are we surprised?



(Photo: Kevin Mazur Villelmage for MTV)

#### STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- . What does this say about American culture and me
- is a twerking twentysomething more Interesting than bombing Syria?



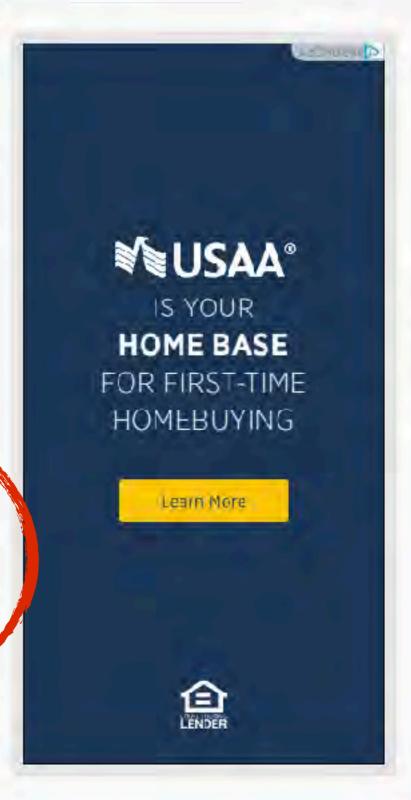
You probably already sensed that media coverage of Miley Cyrus' shenanigans would be more popular. with Americans than stories about mass murder in Syria and the possible J.S. Intervention there.

But someone has actually calculated exactly how much more popular Miley is than Syria: 12 times more popular. It's another one of those signs that suggests...well, samething bout the state of our culture

A new survey by Outbrain, a leading "content discovery platform" on the Web, tracked traffic data from its network of 100 000 publishers and major news organizations and found that Americans viewed 12 times as many pages about Miley-the-twerker as they did about Syria-the-damned. New York magazine's popular fashion blog, The Cut, summed tup.

In disparity is in spite of the fact that hundreds of

Syrians, including more than 400 kids, were sently passed to death a serently by their cwn government, and despite the fact that more than twice as many news stories about Syria have been published for every one about Miley in recent days.



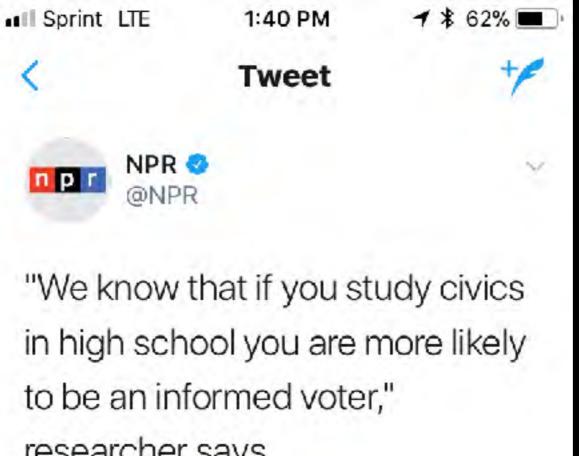
#### STORY FROM HOONUIT

Customer Spotlight: Riverland Community College



### FROM TRAVIS RINK, MIMIO EDUCATOR

More than ever, an appreciation for news and our civic institutions is a key step toward self-empowerment and advancement. As educators, it's our job to make sure that students are armed with the tools necessary to distinguish between fact, fiction, and plain old opinion; between research or evidence-based statements and empty rhetoric; between exaggeration and reputable journalism – not just "factoids" from Facebook, Twitter, or other information feeds.



researcher says



Can Teaching Civics Save Democracy?

Tweet your reply









### 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.

### WHAT AREAS WILL YOU COVER?

- War and conflict
- Politics
- Health
- Science/technology
- Economics (economy, deficit, unemployment)
- Media

- Crime
- Education
- Changing demographics
- Environment
- Major awards/honors

### 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

# Named *Time* magazine's people of the year in 2018, who are "The Guardians"?

- A. journalists who faced persecution, arrest or murder for their reporting
- B. former members of Donald Trump's cabinet
- C. french women who maintain their farms while their husbands fight in World War I
- D. a super-hero squad

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- A. Jared Kushner
- B. Anthony Fauci
- C. Jerome Adams
- D. Tedros Adhanom

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- A. Jared Kushner (Trump's son-in-law)
- B. Anthony Fauci (director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- C. Jerome Adams (U.S. surgeon general)
- D. Tedros Adhanom (WHO director general)

### WHERE QUESTION

In a major legal blow to President Trump's push to expand offshore oil and gas development, a federal judge ruled that an executive order by Trump that lifted an Obama-era ban on oil and gas drilling was unlawful. Where was the development to take place?

- A. the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah
- B. the Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada
- C. West Texas, home of the protected Prairie Chicken
- D. the Arctic Ocean and parts of the North Atlantic Coast

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### WHAT QUESTION

# According to scientists, there's a 99.9999 percent chance that what is the cause of climate change?

- A. the natural cycle of the planet
- B. cows
- C. humans
- D. expansion of the sun

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As authorized by D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser Which slogan was printed on the street in front of the White House in June?

- A. AllAloneTogether
- B. Make America Great Again
- C. MeToo
- D. Black Lives Matter

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# Two of Donald Trump's top cabinet picks were born in Texas. Which two?

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- C. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Jeb Hensarling
- D. Rick Perry and Rex Tillerson

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### NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS

Former "Jackass" star Bam Margera engaged in a standoff with police after allegedly trespassing at luxury Los Angeles hotel. Why did he say he was there?

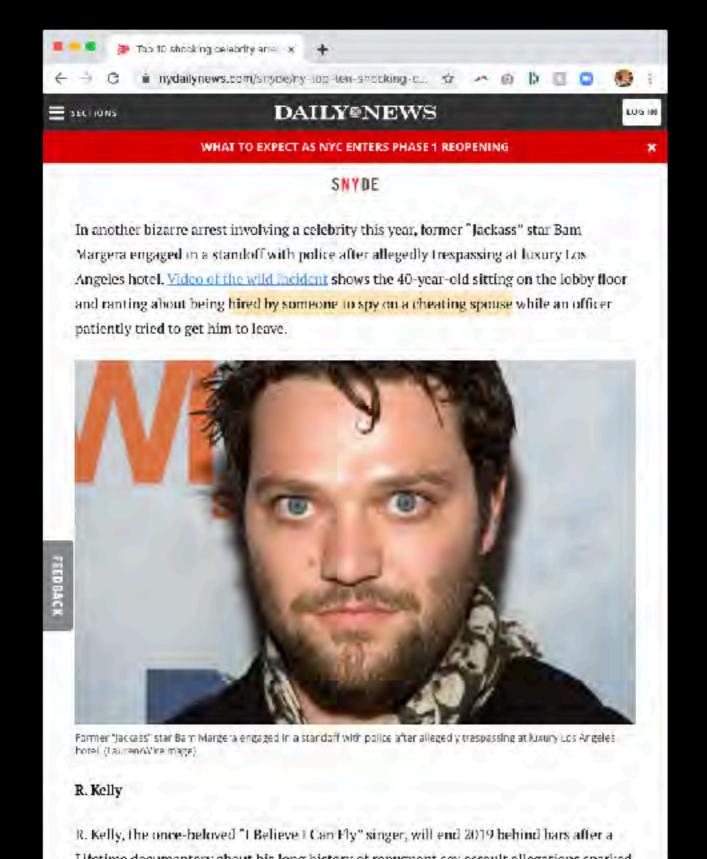
- A. He was hired to spy on a cheating spouse.
- B. He was looking for a place to try skateboarding tricks.
- C. He waiting for his therapy session with Dr. Phil.
- D. He thought they were filming his show there.

## NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS



Who cares?

### NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS



WHO CARES?
Remember criteria
for news

Timeliness Conflict

Consequence

Prominence
Proximity
Oddity
Human Interest

### BUSINESS QUESTIONS

Making it the most-watched finale, with almost 10 million viewers, what PBS television series ended in March of 2015 after six seasons?

- A. Downton Abbey.
- B. Sesame Street.
- C. Doctor Who.
- D. The Magic School Bus

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### BUSINESS QUESTIONS

Even before it opened in China, Disney's new movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" was breaking records.

- Fastest film to gross \$1 billion 12 days.
- Biggest worldwide opening weekend and single weekend gross – \$529 million.
- Biggest worldwide December opening weekend –
   \$529 million.

However, the movie, which opened Dec. 18, 2015, was not without controversy. Discuss some of the issues surrounding the production and release of the box office sensation.

### NO IMPOSSIBLE STUFF

Who was U.S. President Donald Trump's personal secretary before she was fired after making comments about Ivanka Trump?

- A. John Kelly
- B. Madeleine Weterhout
- C. Mick Mulvaney
- D. Sarah Sanders

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### 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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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

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#### NUMBER QUESTIONS

The midterm elections gave Democrats a majority of the total voting seats in the House of Representatives when the new Congress convened Jan. 3. How many votes do the Democrats now have in the House?

- a. 196
- b. 235
- c. 278
- d. 239

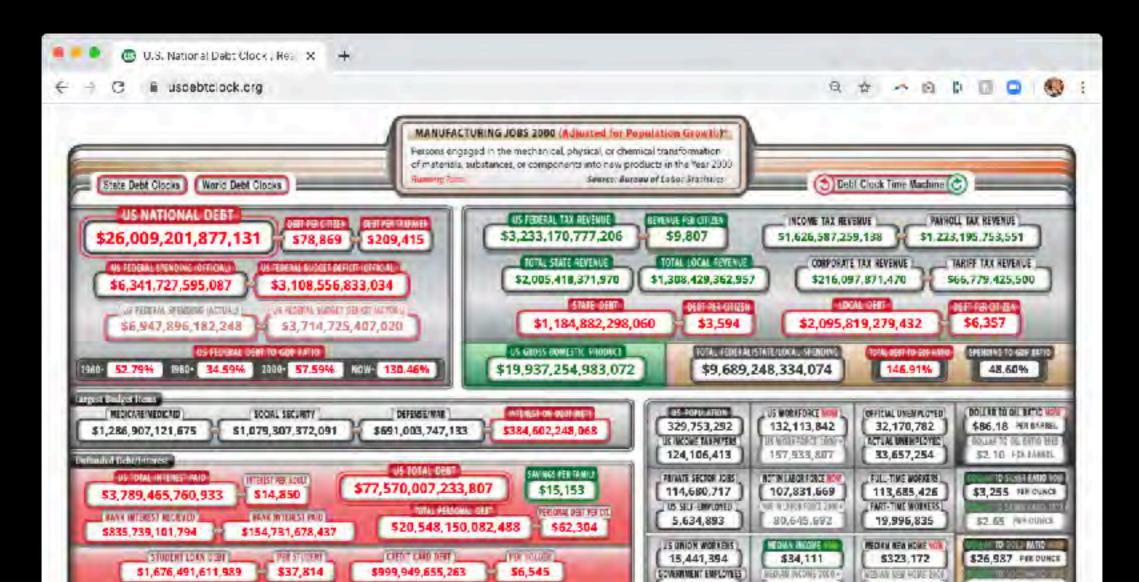
The Labor Department released its monthly hiring and unemployment figures in December, providing one of the better snapshots of the American economy. What was the unemployment rate at the end of the year?

- a. 10.1%
- b. 7.8%
- c. 4.7%
- d. 3.7%

#### NUMBER QUESTIONS

The U.S. government's public debt is the highest it has ever been. Given that the U.S. population is about 330 million, how much debt is there for each person?

- a. about \$67,000
- b. about \$6,700
- c. about \$67 million
- d. about \$6.70



## TRIVIA VS. NEWS



### NOTHING TOO EASY

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

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- C. Bill Clinton
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#### NO SPORTS GAME QUESTIONS

Who won the Super Bowl in 2020, one of the last sporting events played before the country was shut down due to a pandemic?

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- C. New England Patriots
- D. Kansas City Chiefs

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#### HOWEVER, I MIGHT ASK...

Justify won \$800,000 in the Belmont Stakes, after winning \$1.24 million in the Kentucky Derby and \$900,000 in the Preakness. Justify was only the 13th horse in history to capture what elite title?

- A. Super Bowl
- B. Triple Crown
- C. Cricket World Cup
- D. Formula One Racing

## SOME PROBLEM QUESTIONS

#### POLITICS

# Why did the Democratic National Committee suspend Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign's access to the DNC voter database?

- A. Campaign workers took advantage of a software error to access Hillary Clinton's confidential voter information.
- B. Campaign workers broke into Hillary Clinton's headquarters to install listening devices.
- C. Campaign workers embedded themselves on Donald Trump's staff to get inside knowledge.
- D. Campaign workers hacked into it to get confidential data on other candidates.

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#### POLITICS

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http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/18/politics/bernie-sanders-campaign-dnc-suspension/

D is wrong. A is correct. The information wasn't on other candidates anyway. It was on voters.

We sent out a correction the day of Region. "On the CURRENT ISSUES answer key for the Region test, it has been brought to our attention and confirmed that the answer key for #14 is incorrect. #14--A is the correct answer, not D."

#### CIVIL RIGHTS

In a red state known for limiting civil rights protections for LGBT people and regulating who uses which public bathrooms, which candidate for North Carolina governor claimed victory on election night although the election was too close to call even a week after the election?

- a. Republican Roy Cooper
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Roy Cooper is serving as the 75th governor of North Carolina since Jan. 1, 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, Cooper served as the elected attorney general of North Carolina since 2001.

CONTESTANT NUMBER	

#### **CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS**

CONTESTANT ANSWER SHEET

DO NOT write your name or school on this paper. Clearly write the LETTER corresponding to the best response to each question in the space below. Each objective question is worth 1 point. Write your response to the essay on the paper provided. The essay is worth as much as 10 points. You have 60 minutes.

LETTER corresponding to the <mark>best response</mark> to each question in th esponse to the essay on the paper provided. The essay is worth as

10	oo	
14	34	
15	35	
16	36	
17	37	
18	38	
19	39	
20	40	

#### BEST RESPONSE

Pope Francis became the first pontiff to visit the birthplace of Islam.

#### Where?

- a. United Arab Emirates
- b. Nepal
- c. Morocco
- d. Egypt

#### The Latest: Pope on First Papal Visit to Arabian Peninsula

Face Francis is in Abu Shabi on the first papel trip ever to the Ambian Peninsula, the birthplace of Islams

THE REST OF THE PARTY NAMED IN



No. Probinipat Orned Asia Dinistra, Sueday 1 db. 2, 2019 Francis translative Resillability except in a ordineles occurs subjects transportation the environmental Ministry of Alberta in Austria (Ministry of Alberta commercial contribution by producing a standards broad of fours. (AF Photo Archive Machiner's Prod) 164 1140

ABU CHASE UNITED ARAB Emissions (AP) - The latest on Pope Francis' visit to the United Arab

Foce Francia has been greeted by Abu Dhabi's powerful crown prince. Sheich Mohammed bin Zayed At Natyon, on his arrivative the Arabian Peninsula

A young boy and girl in treditional Emnaci does handed the pontiff flowers after funcing Sunday night. The two leaders then walked past an honor guard, all with traditional faulti-

Flace Francia and Shokki Moltommod similed and adoks to each other as they walked through

The pupe also met altost of Capiner ministers in a gleeting line, as well as local Catholic and Maxim officials

Since Francis has anded in Alim Thebi on the first papel hip ever to the Arabian Promise at the

Face Francis Alfa is flight toweres down in the eapha eaty of the united Arab Emission, a federation of green sheethcome around a:b0 g.m. on Sunday

While Francis is building on two of his priorities with his Sundry-Tuesday visit to the United Aux: Entrates - correcting interfeith charagueunc visiting the Cathoric peripheries diplometic protocol will likely dictate that he leaves ofher concerns helpful.

The Emitailes' support for Saucti Atabba's war in Yemen, which has coursed the worlds worst hamanitar an orbit, and the UAD's problematic record on horner rights and lation violations at home likely will get a case - at least in public.

However, Francia did appeal confer Gunday foi an ordita Yeman's humanitarian areas, saying the "owns of these children and their parents assetud" to God-

12:45 p.m. VALCANICITY

Christian leaders attending a summit chean of Pope Francis' arrival in Misi Phabitisty they're excite. To the first page visit to the Arabian Perincilla-

Bisthop Carry to Brailin, the apostolic vicar of Northern Arabia, told The Associated Freez on Sunday that the Fornar Catholic Church provided succes for an estimated 1 million faithful in the United Arab Emirates, hearly all of them foreigness drawn to the country for employment.

Ballin and "His visit is a big and important encouragement for the Christians that live in these pountries because they are far from their horneland and they need especially to be encouraged to that they feel they cre-home.



#### CALLEDIES

READERSON Commount

tec ayes list on The Veet in Photos 2010

#### PERDMMENDED

EATION G. ARRIS BOTHER BOARD TO THE SAME

PART THE PT COURSE OF THE WARRENGET FEETINGER

Purez errecesso immigration



#### ENVIRONMENT

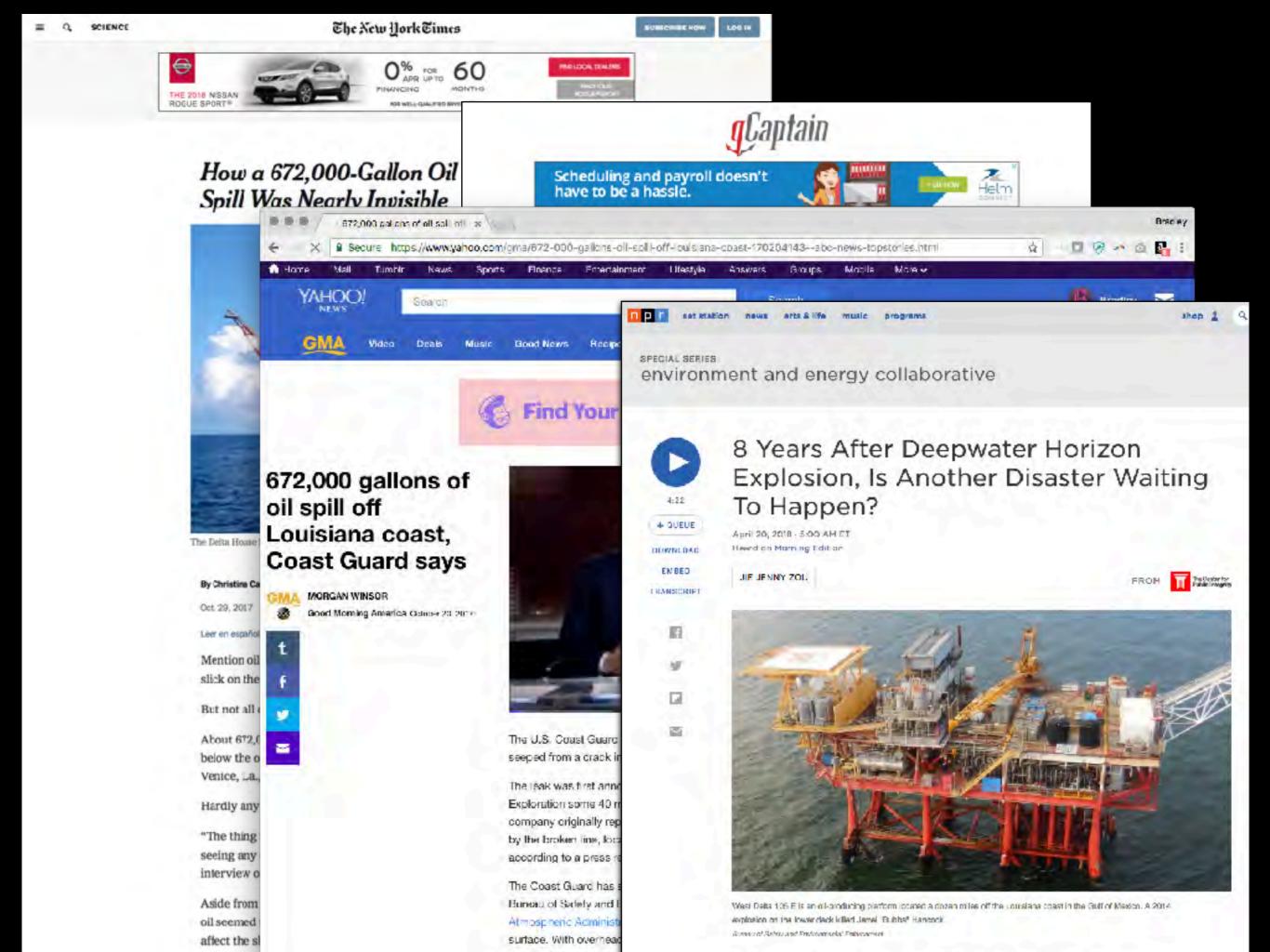
The oil spill appeared to be the largest since the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010. About 672,000 gallons leaked in two days when a pipeline fractured. Where?

- a. off the coast of Kuwait in the Persian Gulf
- b. near Amherst, South Dakota
- c. in the Gulf of Mexico, southeast of Venice, Louisiana
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#### IMPORTANT TOPICS

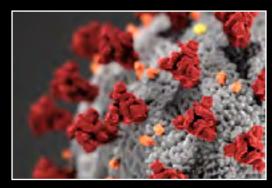
- COVID-19 pandemic
- Race relations in America and worldwide
- The census
- National and state elections
- The economy and significant economic events
- United States presidency and national politics
- International conflict
- U.S. Supreme Court decisions
- Climate change and the environment
- Texas politics
- Major scientific and technological developments

#### ANY RATIOS?

#### **Business • International • National • Science • Texas**





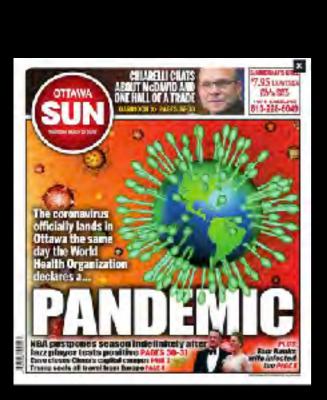






No. I play it by ear depending on news flow. In an election year, you can expect a lot of national news. And, you might expect to see questions regarding Texas implications to a national story or event.

#### THE ESSAY









The essay matters.

#### THE ESSAY

The U.S. economy, the world's third-largest economy, is strong. The Gross Domestic Product is growing at about 2.6 percent per year. Unemployment was only 3.8 percent in February. Inflation is only 2.2 percent. While the national debt is about \$22 trillion, 113 percent of GDP, most economists say that is only unhealthy for short periods.

Not all other countries have economies that are that healthy.

Pick three other countries – not the United States – and discuss economic problems they have been having so far this academic year and the sociopolitical situations surrounding them.

#### THE ESSAY

As Robert Glazer said in an April 1, 2020 *Forbes* article, "With little warning, COVID-19 is changing everything about our lives – changes that are universal across generation. Although each generation will be affected differently, all will be forced to acclimate to a new normal."

And a Pew Research poll released March 30, 2020 showed that nearly 44% of U.S. adults say their life has changed in a major way.

COVID-19 has changed our way of life. First, discuss how the novel coronovirus has changed the way we work, play and learn. Second, include some of the major individuals and companies involved in this new, but temporary, normal. Finally, what steps do officials say will be required to get us back to work, play and school?

### 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	28	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	28	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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#### 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

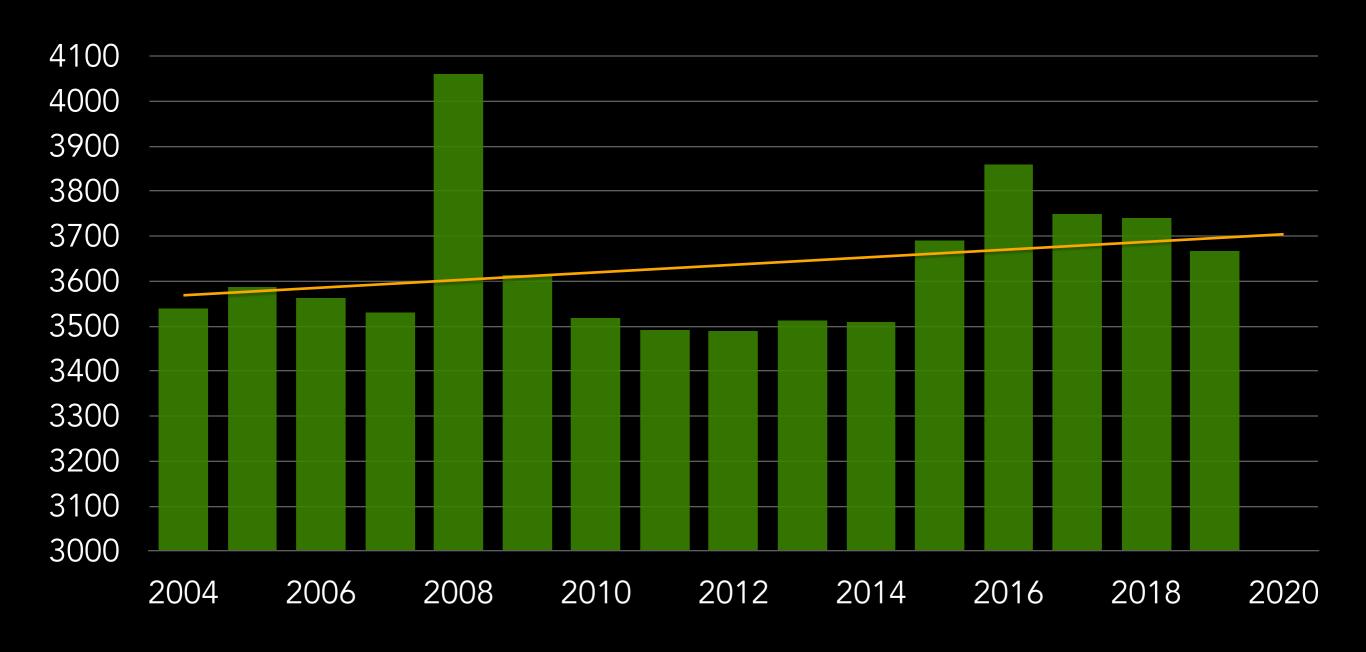
Meadow - 23

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.

# THE NUMBERS: DISTRICT



### THE NUMBERS: REGION & STATE

Region participation in 2019 - 1,043

(2018 - 1,072)

(2016 - 1,080)

(2015 - 1,088)

### State participation in 2019 — 157

Odds of making it to State — 1:6.6

(2018 - 161)

(2017 - 155)

(2016 - 165)

### THE NUMBERS: STATE 2019

# Overall average | 27.41 (High 42)

(2018: 29.43) (2017: 28.72) (2016: 27.6) (2015: 32.3)

1A — 23.57 (High 35)

2A — 27.08 (High 39)

3A — 27.64 (High 38)

4A — 27.54 (High 40)

5A — 28.86 (High 42)

6A — 29.80 (High 38)

### THE NUMBERS: STATE 2019

# FOLLOW CI&E







# Texas UIL Current Issues and Events



@uilciande
#uilciande

### NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA



- USA Today
- Wall Street Journal
- 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



- The Week
- Time
- Newsweek
- Texas Monthly
- US News & World Report
- The Economist

# RADIO, TELEVISION, INTERNET

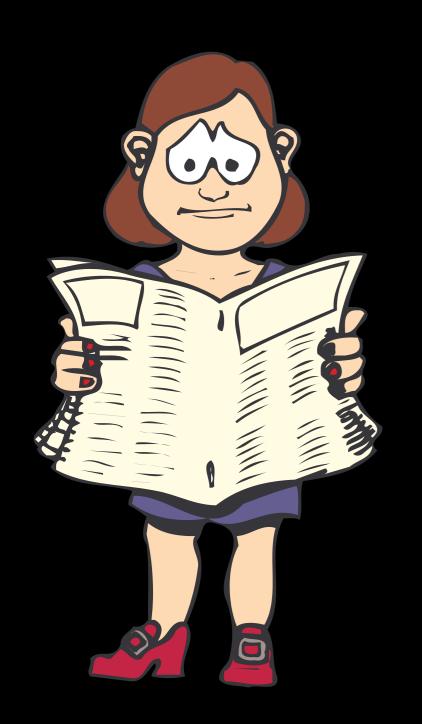


- Texas Tribune
- National Public Radio
- PBS
- ABC, CBS, NBC
- CNN.com, MSNBC.com, foxnews.com



## 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



#### **APRIL LEAVENWORTH**

"Sometimes when we see what's going on in the world around us, it can change our entire perspective on life. We might want to start volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, or with an animal rescue group. Knowing how and why our world is functioning the way it is RIGHT NOW makes us a lot more knowledgeable about how we might be able to change it for the future."

# CONTACT ME









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