CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS

BRADLEY WILSON, PH.D. | CONTEST DIRECTOR
2023-2024
US history, civics scores drop for nation's 8th graders. What experts say is to blame.

Kayla Jimenez
USA TODAY
Published 12:01 a.m. ET May 3, 2023 | Updated 12:14 p.m. ET May 3, 2023

Schools race to catch up kids' reading
Third grade is the last chance for students to master reading with help from teachers before they face more rigorous expectations. If third graders don't read fluently by the time the school year ends, research shows they're less likely to complete high school. (April 25) AP

Another set of test results shows the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on American students: National history scores dropped yet again, and eighth graders lost significant ground in civics for the first time.

Nearly all of the nation's eighth graders fell behind in U.S. history and civics in 2022 compared with 2018 on the National Assessment for Education Progress, also called the Nation's Report Card, according to scores released Wednesday. Declines were expected because of the shift to remote teaching and the loss of instruction time when the pandemic hit. But for these subjects, experts also worry friction over what students are taught in American history classes, especially about race and slavery, are a factor.
Lower average civics score for eighth-graders than in 2018

The average civics score for eighth-grade students in 2022 was 2 points lower compared to 2018, the previous civics assessment year. The 2022 average score was not significantly different compared to the first civics assessment in 1998. Average scores are reported on the NAEP civics scale, which ranges from 0 to 300.

The chart below shows the trend in average civics scores beginning in 1998 and the cut score\(^{\circ}\) indicating the lower end of the score range for each NAEP achievement level: \textit{NAEP Basic}\(^{\circ}\), \textit{NAEP Proficient}\(^{\circ}\), and \textit{NAEP Advanced}\(^{\circ}\). Read a description of each NAEP achievement level by clicking the question mark icons. Read more about how NAEP achievement levels are set. Please note, NAEP achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis and should be interpreted and used with caution.

\textbf{FIGURE | Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics average scores}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{figure.png}
\caption{Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics average scores.}
\end{figure}
Civics score declines for the first time; score unchanged compared to 1998

In 2022, the average civics score at eighth grade decreased by 2 points compared to 2018. The average score in 2022 was not significantly different from 1998, the first year the assessment was given. The average score is reported on the NAEP civics scale, which ranges from 0 to 300.

Explore detailed average score results in the NAEP Civics Report Card

FIGURE | Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics average scores

| LEGEND |

* Significantly different \( (p < .05) \) from 2022.

NOTE: The score-point difference cited in this report is based on the difference between unrounded scores as opposed to the rounded scores shown in the figure.
"We know that if you study civics in high school you are more likely to be an informed voter," researcher says.
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.
Americans have an abysmal knowledge of the nation’s history and a majority of residents in only one state, Vermont, could pass a citizenship test.

Only 27% of those under the age of 45 across the country demonstrate a basic knowledge of American history. And only four in 10 Americans passed the exam.
Do immigrants who are here illegally have any rights under the U.S. Constitution?

Name the five freedoms guaranteed under the First Amendment.

Name the three branches of government.

Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution resulted in freedom for slaves?

Who is the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court?
Only 47% of U.S. adults could name all three branches of government, down from 56% in 2021 and the first decline on this question since 2016.

Less than 24% could name freedom of religion as a freedom guaranteed in the First Amendment, down from 56% in 2021.

51% continue to assert incorrectly that Facebook is required to let all Americans express themselves freely on its platform under the First Amendment.
Freedom of **speech** was cited by 63%, down from 74% in 2021 and 73% in 2020.

Freedom of **religion** was named by 24%, down from 56% in 2021 and 47% in 2020.

Freedom of the **press** was named by 20%, down from 50% in 2021 and 42% in 2020.

Right of **assembly** was named by 16%, down from 30% in 2021 and 34% in 2020.

Right to **petition** the government was named by 6%, down from 20% in 2021 and 14% in 2020.
The number of individuals who incorrectly named the right to **bear arms** – which is guaranteed under the Second Amendment, not the First – tripled to 9% from 3% in 2020 and 2021.
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 Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), elected to Congress in 2019, as the author of The New Deal, a suite of public programs enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s.
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.
9/10 Americans Can't Name This Country

bonvoyaged.com
Can You Pass This World Map Quiz?

10:07 AM · 7/29/22 · AdRizer Twitter App
Promoted
10 Retweets 14 Quote Tweets 118 Likes
Americans prefer Miley to Syria stories by huge number

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

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 U.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, something about 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 it up.

This disparity is in spite of the fact that hundreds of Syrians, including more than 400 kids, were brutally killed to death, apparently by their own 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 HIGHLIGHTS
- What does this say about American culture and media?
- Is a twerking twentysomething more interesting than bombing Syria?

STORY FROM MOONUT
Customer Spotlight: Riverland Community College
See more →

Share your feedback to help improve our site experience!
A large majority of teens age 13 to 17 in the U.S. (78%) say it’s important to them to follow current events, and their news habits reflect the diversity of the modern media landscape.

Common Sense Media and Survey Monkey, 2019
More than half (54%) of teenagers say they find news at least a few times a week from social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

Common Sense Media and Survey Monkey, 2019
Those who relied on social media for news were less likely than most others to be knowledgeable about current events.
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.
Pat Sajak, after 41 seasons, announced his retirement as host of Wheel of Fortune. Who will replace him?

a. Vanna White
b. Bob Barker
c. Ryan Seacrest
d. Ken Jennings
Which of the following is true of former President Donald Trump?

a. He was found guilty and ordered to pay millions in an alleged hush-money payment to a porn star.

b. He faces 91 felony counts in four different states.

c. He admitted to interfering in an election by asking for votes in Georgia.

d. He was handcuffed, fingerprinted and sent to jail for financial crimes in New York.
ASSESSMENT

Eagle Pass Mayor Rolando Salinas declared a state of emergency in his city of 30,000 people. Why?

a. A sudden outbreak of a new strain of COVID-19
b. Congress failed to pass a funding stop-gap measure
c. The drought and record heat, the hottest on record
d. 5,000 migrants crossed over the border into the city from Mexico
Why was whiskey maker Jack Daniels allowed, according to the U.S. Supreme Court, allowed to sue the maker of Bad Spaniels, a dog toy?

a. Dogs were dying from alcohol poisoning.

b. The dog toys were a trademark infringement.

c. The dog treats made use of illegally obtained recipe components.

d. Dogs mistook the toy for the real bottle of whiskey.
Which Texas political leader was impeached over allegations of misconduct that included bribery and abuse of office, removed from office but ultimately acquitted on all charges?

a. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott
b. Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick
c. Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phalen
d. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton
ABOUT THE CONTEST

• 40 objective questions (2 pts. each)
• Essay (20 points)
• 60 minutes
• Top score individual (objective plus essay)
• Top score team (objective only; top three individuals constitute team score)
TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION

How long should you leave FOR THE ESSAY after completing the objective questions given that both sections need to be complete in 60 minutes?

- 10 min: 5.5%
- 20 min: 27.5%
- 30 min: 46.2%
- 40 min: 20.9%

91 votes - Final results

4:40 PM · Oct 8, 2022 · Twitter Web App
TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION

• 60 minutes total
  • 2 minutes, read prompt for essay
  • 30 minutes objective
  • 25 minutes essay
    • 1 minutes, read prompt
    • 2 minutes, outline
    • 18 minutes, write
    • 4 minutes, edit and rewrite
  • 3 minutes review entire test and ensure that your number is on all pages
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.
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
Although the move didn’t fit the state’s flag protocol, Florida’s governor in February ordered flags in the state flown at half-staff for who, a person the governor called “an absolute legend” and “a great person”?

a. Eugene Goodman  
b. Larry Flynt  
c. Chuck Corea  
d. Rush Limbaugh
Although the move didn’t fit the state’s flag protocol, Florida’s governor in February ordered flags in the state flown at half-staff for who, a person the governor called “an absolute legend” and “a great person”?

a. Eugene Goodman
b. Larry Flynt
c. Chuck Corea
d. Rush Limbaugh
Who was the world’s second-longest serving monarch, having served 70 years and 214 days?

a. Louis XIV (France)

b. Elizabeth II (United Kingdom)

c. Rama IX (Thailand)

d. Victoria (United Kingdom)
CHART QUESTION

Using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, what does the chart above represent?

a. the number of people in the United States who have died of COVID-19 per day
b. the number of people in the world who have died of COVID-19 per day
c. the number of people in the U.S. hospitalized with COVID-19 per day
d. the number of COVID-19 vaccines administered in the U.S. per day
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
As authorized by D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser which slogan was printed on the street in front of the White House?

a. AllAloneTogether
b. Make America Great Again
c. MeToo
d. Black Lives Matter
NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS

Who is Taylor Swift dating?

a. Sam Asghari
b. Benjamin Millepied
c. Matty Healy
d. Travis Kelce
NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS

Who cares?

Well, maybe it’s Travis Kelce, with Kelce’s brother saying the rumors are 100% true. Or is it Matt Healy. Joe Alwyn? Tom Hiddleston? Calvin Harris? Harry Styles? Conor Kennedy?
NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS

WHO CARES?
Remember criteria for news
Timeliness
Conflict
Consequence
Prominence
Proximity
Oddity
Human Interest

Are Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce dating? No, but we can dream. If they were, this would be their story: Global music star, a football star, in love.

It's a love story, baby just say yes: Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce, the couple eunuch.
A new energy-friendly fleet of delivery vehicles and shorter office hours were just part of a massive 10-year plan Louis DeJoy had to make so that which business would be more competitive and more modern?

a. the United State Postal Service (USPS)
b. United Parcel Service (UPS)
c. Amazon Home Delivery
d. AT&T home service
A new energy-friendly fleet of delivery vehicles and shorter office hours were just part of a massive 10-year plan Louis DeJoy had to make so that which business would be more competitive and more modern?

a. the United State Postal Service (USPS)
b. United Parcel Service (UPS)
c. Amazon Home Delivery
d. AT&T home service
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.
How far away from Earth is Voyager 1?

a. 116.883757 astronomical units
b. 24,217,465,274 kilometers
c. 26 hours and 24 minutes and 20.7 seconds, light time
d. 51,048,035,270 miles
President Joe Biden delivered the first prime-time address of his term on March 11. In the 24-minute speech, he pulled out a note on his schedule with the total deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19. How many?

a. 23,399,584
b. 2,647,251
c. 527,726
d. 36,919,777
President Joe Biden delivered the first prime-time address of his term on March 11. In the 24-minute speech, he pulled out a note on his schedule with the total deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19. How many?

a. 23,399,584
b. 2,647,251
c. 527,726
d. 36,919,777
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%
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
Hindering delivery of basic supplies to bakeries, hospitals, communication centers and other vital institutions nearby as well as worldwide oil supplies, a giant cargo ship, Ever Given, blocked what critical waterway in March?

a. the Panama Canal
b. Houston Ship Channel
c. the Suez Canal
d. Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal
Hindering delivery of basic supplies to bakeries, hospitals, communication centers and other vital institutions nearby as well as worldwide oil supplies, a giant cargo ship, Ever Given, blocked what critical waterway in March?

a. the Panama Canal
b. Houston Ship Channel
c. the Suez Canal
d. Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal
Who won the Stanley Cup in June of 2023?

a. Vegas Golden Knights
b. Colorado Avalanche
c. Florida Panthers
d. Tampa Bay Lightning
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
Which of the following is NOT true about the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season?

a. For the first time in 25 years, not a single storm formed in August.
b. The season’s first storm, Alex, didn’t become a tropical storm until after it left the mainland U.S.
c. Bonnie crossed over Mexico from the Pacific Ocean and topped out as a Category 3 hurricane.
d. Danielle formed in the Caribbean but died in the mid-Atlantic thanks to unseasonably cold waters.
In 2005, there were 27 named storms and one unnamed storm. In 2020, there were 30 named storms, a new record. The last named storm, a Category 5 storm, was?

a. Vicky  
b. Zeke  
c. Iota  
d. Lambda
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
d. off the coast of Trinidad and Tobago in the Atlantic Ocean
SOME PROBLEM QUESTIONS
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.
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.

Answer key said d was correct.
POLITICS

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

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
b. Democrat Pat McCrory
c. Libertarian Lon Cecil
d. Republican Robert Brawley
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  
b. Democrat Pat McCrory  
c. Libertarian Lon Cecil  
d. Republican Robert Brawley
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
b. Democrat Pat McCrory
c. Libertarian Lon Cecil
d. Republican Robert Brawley

Roy Cooper is the 75th governor of North Carolina since 2017. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as the 49th attorney general of North Carolina from 2001 to 2016.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>14.</th>
<th>34.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>35.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>36.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>37.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>38.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.</td>
<td>39.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.</td>
<td>40.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
"As required by the Constitution, who presided over the second impeachment trial of former U.S. President Donald Trump?"

a. the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Roberts
b. the vice president, Kamala Harris
c. a senator, Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont, the president pro tempore of the Senate
d. the speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, D-California

We have a question regarding #37 on the Current Events test.
Choice C is the correct answer on the key.

However, according to the Constitution, the chief justice is supposed to preside over it, which is choice A.

Do we accept both A and C?
"Facing multiple crises including twin hurricanes, earthquakes, the island’s debt crisis, corruption scandals and the pandemic, Pedro Pierluisi was sworn in as governor of what country Jan. 2?"

a. Guam  

b. American Samoa  

c. U.S. Virgin Islands  

d. Puerto Rico
"Facing multiple crises including twin hurricanes, earthquakes, the island’s debt crisis, corruption scandals and the pandemic, Pedro Pierluisi was sworn in as governor of what country Jan. 2?"

a. Guam
b. American Samoa
c. U.S. Virgin Islands
d. Puerto Rico
"Facing multiple crises including twin hurricanes, earthquakes, the island’s debt crisis, corruption scandals and the pandemic, Pedro Pierluisi was sworn in as governor of what country Jan. 2?"

- a. Guam
- b. American Samoa
- c. U.S. Virgin Islands
- d. Puerto Rico
Puerto Rico Swears In As New Governor Inherits Multiple Crises

January 2, 2021 - 12:44 PM

Adrián L. Ramírez

Pedro Pierluisi was sworn in as Puerto Rico’s 14th elected governor on Friday, promising to turn the page on years of social and political turmoil and to restore trust in a government whose credibility has been damaged by its responses to a string of recent crises.

Speaking from the steps of the island’s Capitol, the new governor said he planned to meet with a crowded of a few hundred invited guests who wore face coverings spaced out as a precaution against the coronavirus.

Pierluisi, 61, was previously the island’s attorney general and a long-time delegate to the U.S. Congress. He resurging in on Saturday, prior to his attempt to claim the governorship, first in 2018, where he lost the Democratic primary to Ricardo A. Rossello, who resigned in July 2019 in the wake of a scandal involving a private chat room.

The new governor has also faced scrutiny and raised eyebrows over a legal dispute over his financial affairs that has delayed his confirmation in the Senate, where he was sworn in on Saturday. He has also been accused of taking money from a political action committee in his campaign and of improperly using state resources to cover campaign expenses.

Pedro Pierluisi, via MPR News

Photos of Puerto Rico

View 15 Photos

Country Flag

View Details

Country Map

View Larger

Download Country Documents

One Page Summary

Travel Facts

Locator Map

View Larger

Introduction

Background

Geography

Economy

Government

People

Culture

Language

History

Sights & Sounds

Video

Download

Print

Tweet

Share

Donate

Go to CIA.gov

Countries

Maps

References

About
What disturbed me most in CI&E is that there was a lot of parody among the competitor's scores before the essay was judged. This overweights the importance of the essay at state. I would suggest that the way to make the test less subjective at region and state is to make it harder. The way to fix the problem is to add more questions at regional and even more at state. Say, an increase of five or even better 10 at each level should do it.

JONATHAN ROBERTSON
SUDAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T=Texas</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N=National</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I=International</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B=Business</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S=Science</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Any Ratios?

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>T=Texas</strong></td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>N=National</strong></td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I=International</strong></td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B=Business</strong></td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>S=Science</strong></td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bids to ban critical race theory have come in every state except one, database shows

Kelly Powers  USA TODAY NETWORK
Published 5:05 a.m. ET April 17, 2023 | Updated 7:53 a.m. ET April 17, 2023

From the military to classrooms: Find out why critical race theory is causing a divide
From Donald Trump to Barack Obama, critical race theory has become a talking point. Find out why it’s getting banned in classrooms across dozens of states. Just the FAQs, USA TODAY
Imagine.
If we had embraced Colin Kaepernick's peaceful protest and paid attention to the issue he was trying to address.

Imagine.
We could be working toward change instead of witnessing the chaos, anger and violence in our streets.

Imagine.
Because this was exactly what Kaepernick was protesting. Not the anthem. Not the flag. Not the military. But unchecked police brutality against people of color like George Floyd in our country.

Imagine.
The essay matters.
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.
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 coronavirus 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?
# RUBRIC for Social Studies and CI&E essays

Judges may award all or no points. This is a working document for as many as three judges. Final points are a compromise among judges, NOT A RUNNING POINT TOTAL or pure point averaging. Return this form to the student with the objective portion of the contest.

### POINTS AWARDED:

**Current Issues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Judge 1</th>
<th>Judge 2</th>
<th>Judge 3</th>
<th>Consensus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comments:**

- **OVERALL ESSAY SCORE**
  - (maximum of 20 points)

- **OBJECTIVE SCORE**
  - (score from the objective portion of the test)

- **OVERALL SCORE**
  - (add essay score to objective score)

---

**Social Studies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>@MRACADEMICS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If the report card on the Biden administration’s foreign policy were set in stone after his first year (or so), what grade would Biden get?

Pick three issues or events related to foreign policy during Biden’s term in office and support the grade by evaluating those issues or events on political, social, cultural and/or economic grounds.
Hello Mr. Wilson:

I am currently at a UIL district meet. In my nine years of coaching this event, I have never seen an essay that invites editorializing. It created confusion for students who tested. Students asked for clarification. While I graded essays I had one student title their essay: “We are asked never to editorialize...”

I guess I am seeking clarification. This in way not change my kids standings and points but as professionals working together, my fellow current events coaches and I were befuddled.

Thank you for your time,
Michelle Yañez
Tivy High School
Kerrville, TX
District 32-5A
THE ESSAY

**VERBS**

- To discuss
- To examine
- To review
- To compare / to contrast
- To explore
- To survey
- To dig into
- To canvass
- To analyze
- To have a look
- To look into
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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Essay</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Britney</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayden</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilary</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Objective</td>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britney</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayden</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilary</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# About Individual Scoring

## Final Places

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Essay</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Britney</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindsey</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juan</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jayden</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophia</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicole</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hilary</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
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

STATE PARTICIPATION

2023 – 155
2022 – 160
2021 – 145
2019 – 157
2018 – 161
2017 – 155
2016 – 165
THE NUMBERS: STATE 2023

Objective score average | 28.8
High | 38
Low | 14

Essay score average | 5.7
(2017: 5.2) (2016: 4.7) (2015: 5.6)
High | 10 (n=1)
Low | 2 (n=2)
## THE NUMBERS: STATE 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1A</th>
<th>2A</th>
<th>3A</th>
<th>4A</th>
<th>5A</th>
<th>6A</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contestants</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Overall</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>43.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Objective</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>36.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Objective</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>19.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Essay</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Essay</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
18. China will have 1.4257 billion people by the middle of this year, according to U.N. projections. What country will surpass that by 2.9 million people, making it, not China, the world’s most populous country?

a. India
b. Brazil
c. Indonesia
d. Pakistan
19. After severing ties with the rapper Ye over antisemitic comments, Adidas was left with unsold merchandise worth $1.3 billion. What kind of merchandise?

a. Sneakers
b. Evening wear
c. Spandex (elastane)
d. Brightly colored trefoil jackets
25. Under the current voting system, 90 counties in Texas use countywide voting centers on Election Day. SB990 – if approved by the state House – would eliminate countywide voting centers on Election Day. Where would people vote?

a. at one central location approved by the county judge  
b. at an assigned precinct, typically in their neighborhood  
c. at one central location approved by the Texas legislature  
d. at the office of the county judge with approved observers watching all interactions
35. U.N. member states finally agreed in March on a treaty to protect what area against the loss of wildlife?

a. the moon
b. the area inside the Arctic Circle
c. the high seas
d. Antarctica
When Democratic legislators walked out Sunday night, it was clear that SB7 wouldn't pass. What was it about?

- elections and voter access
- expanding gun rights
- restricting abortion
- bail reform
# Weekly News Quiz for Students: Covid Decline, Viral Video, Giant Iceberg

**Compiled by: **Ajita Chit and Jeremy Cauth  May 28, 2021

This is our final Weekly News Quiz for Students for the 2020-21 school year. Look for our Summer News Quiz in August.

---

### Question 1

Above is an image related to one of the news stories we covered this past week. Do you know what it shows? At the bottom of this quiz, you’ll find the answer.

Have you been paying attention to the news recently? See how many of these 10 questions you can get right.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A sharply divided House voted on May 19 to create an independent commission to investigate the __________ overconning opposition. Ten Republican Caucus members backstop it.</td>
<td>Capitol assault on Jan. 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign interference in elections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of human activity on climate change</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial disparities in the economy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

On May 29, after more than _______ days of fighting that had taken more than 200 lives and inspired protests and diplomatic efforts around the world, Israel and Hamas agreed to a cease-fire. Officials on both sides said:

- 10
- 25
- 100

---

Last week, the United States reported the lowest number of new Covid-19 cases since __________

- Summer 2020
- November 2020
- January 2021
Question 2 of 12
Who presented the Bush administration's case for war in an address to the United Nations Security Council?

Condoleezza Rice
Dick Cheney
George Tenet
Colin Powell

Answer quickly to earn more points!
46 coins
Kelly Gordon @KellyKgordon

@uilciande

What a ride! Thanks Dr. Wilson!
Congratulations to Alex Yount of Dripping Springs High School. The only person to score a perfect 40 in the CI&E Take-Home competition. Congratulations.

@OneTigerNation @dsisd uiltexas.org/files/academic...

---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conf</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Bryan Adams High School</td>
<td>Carmen Hernandez</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Bryan Adams High School</td>
<td>Melanie Peraza</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Bryan Adams High School</td>
<td>Jordan Young</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Clint ISD Early College Academy</td>
<td>Brittany Rodriguez</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Clint ISD Early College Academy</td>
<td>Andrea Sanchez</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Clint ISD Early College Academy</td>
<td>Jose Vega</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Dripping Springs High School</td>
<td>Melissa Richardson</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Dripping Springs High School</td>
<td>Alex Yount</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Ennis High School</td>
<td>Mason Gilb</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Ennis High School</td>
<td>Samantha Webster</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Infinity Early College High School</td>
<td>Sergio Martinez-Ortiz</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Infinity Early College High School</td>
<td>Vinay Pillai</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Infinity Early College High School</td>
<td>Adrianna Toledo</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11 years - 12 events - 5 schools - 3 ISDs - too many invitationalss, tournaments, medals, trophies & ribbons to count - the most amazing coaches in the state to help him along the way! Today Andrew’s UIL Academics journey came to an end. I’m so proud of all he’s accomplished!
Q: How to start a fight in a game?
A: Mix up teams and ask @quizlet to prepare for the year!

2005: A number of players were met yesterday, some who had won again this week.

2018: I, as usual, complete history and achieving...

13 years apart, the greats #G

Current Issues and Events

2nd place team in Texas 4A

Thanks for the years of coaching @Skizalmo!

Also, I got a great selfie with @bradleywilson09!

@cantonhs @CantonUIL @uilciande
@bradleywilson09 is the coolest Current events director ever! #currentevents
SPORTSMANSHIP

Chad Smith (@MrAwesome109)

Not only are we champions but we also just set a record for score! @uilciande State champs! Obed -3rd Sam-4th

Spencer Johns (@Steffe Johns)

Victory belongs to the most persevering. - Napoleon Bonaparte

4 years to State.
Sophomore - 4th Individual
Junior - 1st Team
Senior - 2nd Individual

Rodrigo Estrada (@RodrigoEstJr)

#UIL Academics Regional Meet domination! UIL Current Events Top Score #UIL Science Top Champ & Team #StateBound @UILtexas

Tweet your reply
SPORTSMANSHIP

Rachael Cummings
@rcummings513

Tioga's Current Issues and Events won the 1A Texas State Championship! @uilciande

Amy Hodge
@amy_hodge/

Way to go, Andrew! You worked hard for this 1st place! On to Region! #UILTexas @a_Plebeian01 @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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>University of Texas Permian Basin (Odessa)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>University of Texas at Austin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>Prosper ISD (DFW area)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>Texas A&amp;M University – Corpus Christi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contest Type</td>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitational A</td>
<td>Jan. 5 - Feb. 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitational B</td>
<td>Feb. 9 - March 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>April 1 - 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>April 26 - 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>May 13 - 15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CUT-OFF DATES 2023–2024

The contest will focus on a basic knowledge of current state, national and world events and issues. “Current events” are those that have occurred during the current school year so any material after Aug. 14, 2023, is fair game for any exam. However, the following cut-off dates may assist in studying for multiple-choice questions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invitational A</td>
<td>Aug. 14, 2023 - Dec. 6, 2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invitational B</td>
<td>Aug. 14, 2023 - Jan. 1, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
<td>Sept. 18, 2023 - Feb. 14, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Oct. 16, 2023 - March 26, 2024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Jan. 2, 2024 - May 13, 2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
“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

BRADLEY WILSON, PH.D.
bradleywilson08@gmail.com
@bradleywilson09