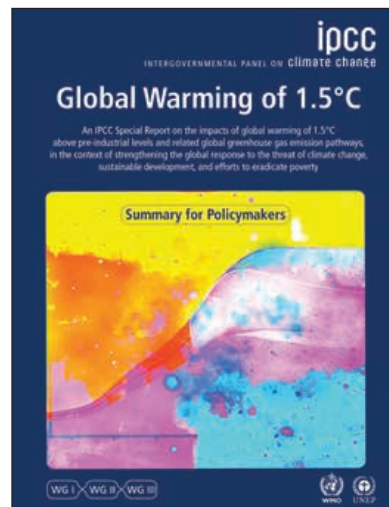
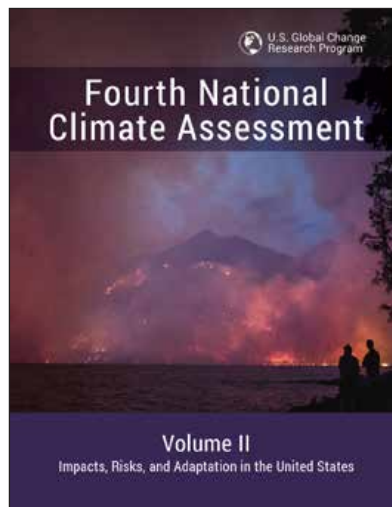




# CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

 @UILCIANDE  
**2019 • INVITATIONAL B**



Two reports, both released this past fall, drew considerable attention to climate change. In the United States, the Fourth National Climate Assessment was mandated by Congress and came out in November of 2018. The International Panel on Climate Change released a special report, *Global Warming of 1.5 °C*, a report released in October of 2018.

**DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE INSTRUCTED TO DO SO!**

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

# **CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS**

## **INVITATIONAL B • 2019**

1. **Nancy Pelosi was overwhelmingly elected to be the U.S. Speaker of the House. Who is returning to his post as House majority leader?**
  - a. Seth Moulton (D-Massachusetts)
  - b. James Clyburn (D-South Carolina)
  - c. Steny Hoyer (D-Maryland)
  - d. Kevin McCarthy (R-California)
2. **Florida Gov. Rick Scott declared a state of emergency late last summer, shut down businesses and kept tourists away. Why?**
  - a. rising sea levels attributed to climate change
  - b. a fish kill attributed to an underwater oil leakage
  - c. a red tide algae bloom
  - d. a shortage of sand
3. **In 2019, New York City joined Seattle, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, San Francisco and other cities that have completely or partially banned what?**
  - a. straws
  - b. throwaway polystyrene coffee cups, soup bowls, plates, packing peanuts
  - c. soft drinks in containers larger than 32 ounces
  - d. birth certificates without a distinct gender marking — male or female
4. **By establishing an exploratory committee, one of the first formal steps to launching a campaign, who became the first Democrat to declare candidacy for the office of president?**
  - a. Elizabeth Warren
  - b. Mitt Romney
  - c. Cory Booker
  - d. Beto O'Rourke
5. **Who was the first black man to win an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony?**
  - a. Tim Rice
  - b. Daveed Diggs
  - c. Sterling Brown
  - d. John Legend
6. **British Prime Minister Theresa May said British Parliament members will have a choice between May's proposed deal with the European Union or no deal at all in regards to what?**
  - a. impending economic collapse of Ireland
  - b. splitting Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England off from the United Kingdom
  - c. creating a new currency and discontinuing use of the Euro
  - d. Brexit, leaving the European economic and political partnership

7. **Dane Best persuaded the leaders of Severance, Colorado, to overturn a ban on what projectile weapon?**
  - a. snowballs
  - b. missiles
  - c. stones
  - d. bows and arrows
8. **The week before the confirmation vote was to take place in the Senate, Christine Blasey Ford accused Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh of something that occurred more than 30 years ago. What?**
  - a. rape
  - b. being married, but never divorced
  - c. vocally opposing abortion
  - d. sexual assault
9. **The foreign-born population in the United States has reached its highest share since 1910 — 41 percent. Overall, the foreign-born population is 13.7 percent, up 0.2 percent since 2016. The new arrivals are more likely to have college degrees and to come from where?**
  - a. Asia
  - b. Latin America
  - c. Africa
  - d. South America
10. **In his first debate with Ted Cruz, Beto O'Rourke talked about a salutorian who had just been sent back to Mexico. He used this unnamed student to discuss immigration and what specific group?**
  - a. minors separated from their parents
  - b. anyone here illegally
  - c. migrant workers
  - d. dreamers
11. **The headline was: "U.S. and Canada Reach Trade Deal to Salvage NAFTA." What trade agreement was the result?**
  - a. NAFTA 2 — The North American Free Trade Agreement Revised and Updated
  - b. The Trump-Trudeau-Nieto Agreement
  - c. USMCA — United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement
  - d. The Trump Accords
12. **In his second address at the United Nations General Assembly in late September, U.S. President Donald Trump got a laugh after claiming credit for his achievements. Still, he continued to push forward with his commitment to what?**
  - a. America First
  - b. a nuclear free world
  - c. an end to Islamic extremism
  - d. bringing down world leaders such as, in his words, "Rocket Man" and the "Corrupt Dictator of Iran"

- 13. A team of scientists in China announced twins with genetically modified DNA were born in November. Their modified genes did what?**
- a. made them taller and healthier
  - b. rendered them immune to heart disease
  - c. prevented cancer
  - d. “vaccinated” the twins against HIV
- 14. Johns Hopkins University named a building after Henrietta Lacks, an African-American woman who died in 1951. Lacks effectively gained immortality when her cells were used in what?**
- a. cancer research
  - b. artificial insemination
  - c. alpha-particle radiation research
  - d. genetic research, tracing the lineage of African-Americans in America
- 15. Sears, which more than a century ago pioneered the strategy of selling everything to everyone including a pioneering catalog business, did what on Oct. 15?**
- a. filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to reorganize, to cut debts and to stay open at least for a while
  - b. withdrew from the NYSE after its stock fell to record lows
  - c. began the process to open 1,600 stores after a tremendously successful second quarter
  - d. raised the minimum wage to \$15 an hour for its United States employees
- 16. Armed with an AR-15-style assault rifle and at least three handguns, a man shouting anti-Semitic slurs killed at least 11 people and wounded four police officers and two others. Where?**
- a. a Thousand Oaks, California, country dance bar
  - b. a diner in Columbia, Tennessee
  - c. a Pittsburgh synagogue
  - d. at home in Bakersfield, California, after a domestic dispute
- 17. The principal of Paradise High School in California, Loren Lighthall, told NPR, “There’s literally no place to live in Paradise. There’s no homes. There’s no temporary shelters. There’s no motels. There’s nothing.” Why?**
- a. a tsunami
  - b. the most destructive fire in state history
  - c. an earthquake, magnitude 7.5, that triggered landslides, burying the town
  - d. climate change that caused shifting sands to bury the town
- 18. After the resignation of U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions, Sens. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and Chris Coons (D-Del.) proposed legislation to protect Robert Mueller from being fired. In what role was Mueller serving?**
- a. director of the FBI
  - b. special counsel investigating Russian interference in the 2016 elections
  - c. U.S. Marine Corps commandant
  - d. prosecutor investigating sexual harassment cases in the executive branch

- 19. Native American groups in North Dakota scrambled to help members acquire new addresses and new IDs in the few weeks before the midterm elections last fall. Why?**
  - a. Native Americans are considered citizens of their own nation, not the United States.
  - b. Courts ruled the 1965 Voting Rights Act didn't include Native Americans.
  - c. They won't be listed on the state's voter registration lists.
  - d. The Supreme Court declined to overturn North Dakota's voter ID law that requires an ID with a current street address, not a P.O. box.
- 20. 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
- 21. NASA's \$814 million InSight mission landed in November with plans to study what?**
  - a. the deep interior of Mars
  - b. the atmosphere of Pluto
  - c. miles of frozen ocean on Neptune
  - d. ice on a comet passing through our solar system
- 22. Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith fended off a challenge from Democrat Mike Espy in a runoff election. What issue dominated the final days of the election and brought national attention to Mississippi?**
  - a. gender
  - b. race
  - c. agriculture
  - d. Republican dominance of the Senate
- 23. She will represent New York's 14th District, Queens and the Bronx. Which of the following is also true about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez after her election in November?**
  - a. At 29, she became the youngest woman elected to Congress.
  - b. In the primary, she defeated a white, male newcomer with no money and little name recognition, making it easy to beat her unknown Republican opponent.
  - c. She won by the closest margin of any of the people elected last fall, with fewer than 100 votes separating her and her opponent.
  - d. She ran a single-issue campaign, supporting judicial immunity: "No one is above the law."
- 24. Ukraine's Parliament agreed to impose martial law in 10 of its provinces to combat what?**
  - a. "a caravan of immigrants from Syria"
  - b. "developing missiles and military artillery along with a growing army in Poland"
  - c. "allowing the province of Moldova's to become independent"
  - d. "growing aggression from Russia"
- 25. What hotel chain hasn't said how many of approximately 383 million customers affected in the biggest hacking of personal information in history had their unencrypted passport numbers stolen?**
  - a. Hilton
  - b. Marriott
  - c. Wyndham
  - d. Hyatt

- 26. 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%
- 27. In a move that would put an end to the sale of attachments that allow semi-automatic rifles to fire faster, U.S. President Donald Trump announced an official ban on what?**
- a. bump stocks
  - b. a flashlight
  - c. forward grip
  - d. thumbhole stock
- 28. Meet Lily. She's 7, bright pink and the first Muppet on "Sesame Street" to experience what?**
- a. suicide of a friend
  - b. poverty
  - c. homelessness
  - d. deportation
- 29. The Food and Drug Administration declared a popular device with teenagers had reached "epidemic proportion" and gave manufacturers 60 days to prove they can keep what devices away from minors?**
- a. electronic cigarettes
  - b. wireless ear buds
  - c. fidget spinners
  - d. naloxone pumps
- 30. A tsunami in Indonesia killed more than 400 people and injured nearly 1,500 on the islands of Java and Sumatra. What caused the giant wave?**
- a. climate change
  - b. a landslide caused by a volcanic eruption
  - c. a magnitude 7.0 earthquake originating off the coast of the Philippines
  - d. an asteroid named Ceres hit the planet in the Pacific Ocean
- 31. Inflation. Food shortages. Fuel shortages. These factors contributed to demands that Omar Hassan al-Bashir step down as the longest-serving ruler of what country?**
- a. France
  - b. Brazil
  - c. Congo
  - d. Sudan
- 32. Amid a recession and soaring violence, Jair Bolsonaro won decisively, but citizens of his country remain deeply divided about their new president. As he was sworn in in January, he told citizens of his country they were "being freed from socialism." What country?**
- a. Brazil
  - b. Venezuela
  - c. Argentina
  - d. Guatemala

- 33. In a milestone for space exploration, China landed a probe where for the first time?**
- an asteroid orbiting the sun outside the orbit of Neptune
  - a comet passing through our solar system
  - the dark side of the moon
  - Phobos, a moon orbiting Mars
- 34. Miss Universe Organization officials announced that for the first time in its history what would happen?**
- They would be eliminating the swimsuit competition.
  - Judging would no longer be based on physical appearance.
  - They would allow transgender contestants.
  - There would be an all-women panel of judges.
- 35. The last murder conviction against an on-duty officer in a Texas shooting was 45 years ago. But in August, former police officer Roy Oliver was convicted of what?**
- murder of fellow police officer Tyler Gross in a massive drug crime ring case
  - murder of nine students and a teacher at a Houston-area high school
  - murder and aggravated assault for killing an unarmed black teen
  - murder, which he said was self defense, after Vidal Allen tried to run him down in a truck
- 36. The Republican-controlled Senate pushed forward measures limiting the power of the newly elected — and Democrat — governor of what state?**
- Michigan
  - Wisconsin
  - Illinois
  - Kansas
- 37. Which American automaker announced in November that it plans to eliminate 10,000 jobs in North America and to close at least three manufacturing plants?**
- Ford
  - Chevrolet
  - General Motors
  - Tesla
- 38. A judge declared a mistrial on 10 counts after jurors failed to reach a unanimous verdict in former Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort's trial. However, the jury did find Manafort guilty on eight charges. Which of the following was NOT one of those charges?**
- filing false income tax returns
  - Russian collusion
  - failing to file a report of a foreign bank account
  - bank fraud
- 39. More than 30,000 public-school teachers in the nation's second largest school district — Los Angeles — began a strike on Jan. 14. Which of the following was NOT one of the teachers' demands?**
- higher pay
  - smaller classes
  - merit pay and bonuses tied to standardized test scores
  - more support staff including librarians and counselors

**40. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis resigned Dec. 21 in protest of U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw American forces from what country?**

- a. Iraq
- b. Yemen
- c. Syria
- d. Afghanistan

**ESSAY PROMPT**

NOTE: *Contestants who do not write an essay will be disqualified.* Essay length is not a major grading factor as long as the essay is substantial and demonstrates a sincere effort to discuss the assigned topic. Cover as many corners of the issue as practical, including historical, political, economic, current events and cultural, when relevant. Avoid including your personal opinions, as more than enough information on the subject has been published. A focused, concise and specific essay beats a vague and rambling essay.

**A major scientific report issued by 13 federal agencies last fall presents the starkest warnings to date of the consequences of climate change for the United States, predicting that if significant steps are not taken to rein in global warming, the damage will knock as much as 10 percent off the size of the American economy by century's end.**

**Congress mandated the report. The White House released it. And it is notable for the precision of the calculations and bluntness of its conclusions.**

**Cite THREE examples of climate change impacts within this academic year and possible economic impacts of each of the changes.**



**DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS BEFORE OR DURING THE CONTEST!**

# ANSWER KEY

## ESSAY PROMPT

A major scientific report issued by 13 federal agencies last fall presents the starkest warnings to date of the consequences of climate change for the United States, predicting that if significant steps are not taken to rein in global warming, the damage will knock as much as 10 percent off the size of the American economy by century's end.

Congress mandated the report. The White House released it. And it is notable for the precision of the calculations and bluntness of its conclusions.

Cite **THREE** examples of climate change impacts within this academic year and possible economic impacts of each of the changes.

## POTENTIAL DISCUSSION POINTS

- *The report.* The Global Change Research Act of 1990 mandated the report be delivered to Congress every four years. This year, it was 1,656 pages and is available online at <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>.
- *Record wildfires.* California, like much of the West, gets most of its moisture in the fall and winter. Its vegetation then spends much of the summer slowly drying out because of a lack of rainfall and warmer temperatures. That vegetation serves as kindling for fires. California's climate has always been fire prone and the link between climate change and bigger fires is inextricable. Of the 10 largest fires since 1932, nine have occurred since 2000, five since 2010 and two this year alone, including the Mendocino Complex Fire, the largest in state history. The Camp Fire was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history. It is also the deadliest wildfire in the U.S. since the Cloquet fire in 1918, and is high on the list of the world's deadliest wildfires. The Camp Fire was responsible for 85 fatalities. As of Nov. 19, insured damage was estimated to be \$7.5–10 billion including the destruction of 18,804 structures.
- *Food shortages.* The need for food will become increasingly urgent as rising temperatures force nations to retool their approach to agriculture, to create new climate-resistant crops, and to develop additional strategies to ensure an adequate food supply for their people. Farming and ranching have depleted land and animal species on a broad scale worldwide, and as the global population grows by an estimated 2.4 billion people in the next three decades, the world will need to produce 70 percent more food than it does today. The oceans — covering more than two-thirds of the planet but producing just 2 percent of its food — could be a substitute for terrestrial farming. Marine agriculture and farming could also reduce a roughly \$15 billion annual seafood trade deficit, much of it with Asian nations such as China, Japan and South Korea.
- *Flooded coastlines.* Climate change has already increased the frequency of coastal flooding, including floods just from tides. The combination of water expansion as the ocean has warmed and the melting of land ice into the oceans has driven sea level up about 7 inches since 1900, and the rise is accelerating. From 2005 to 2015, the median annual number of flood days more than doubled along the stretch of coast from Florida to North Carolina. Road surfaces are already being elevated in anticipate of inevitable sea level rise in South Florida. City planners in Annapolis, Maryland have discussed ways protect the city's historic dock, from improving storm drain systems to elevating some urban features. (*Source:* Climate Central, Oct. 4, 2018)
- *Record droughts.* Texas had its driest year on record in 2011. A study published in Science Advances and released last fall. "The safest bet is that global temperatures will continue to increase, causing Texas droughts to be warmer and more strongly affected by evaporation." Such droughts causes increases in the price of beef and milk. Other droughts threatened the UK and Europe.
- *Rising global temperatures.* The world's leading climate scientists have warned there is only a dozen years for global warming to be kept to a maximum of 1.5°C, beyond which even half a degree will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. The half-degree difference could also prevent corals from being completely eradicated and ease pressure on the Arctic, according to a study by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released in October. Temperature records were broken in north Africa, California, and hundreds of people died after deadly heatwaves in Greece and Japan.
- "Climate change is happening now, and it's happening faster and much worse than predicted. It's threatening to the world we know and everything in it. It's already killing people. This is beyond doubt or argument," Emily Mulligan, head of campaigns at GetUp, wrote in *The Guardian*, Jan. 1 2019.

- |       |       |
|-------|-------|
| 1. C  | 21. A |
| 2. C  | 22. B |
| 3. B  | 23. A |
| 4. A  | 24. D |
| 5. D  | 25. B |
| 6. D  | 26. D |
| 7. A  | 27. A |
| 8. D  | 28. C |
| 9. A  | 29. A |
| 10. D | 30. B |
| 11. C | 31. D |
| 12. A | 32. A |
| 13. D | 33. C |
| 14. A | 34. D |
| 15. A | 35. C |
| 16. C | 36. B |
| 17. B | 37. C |
| 18. B | 38. B |
| 19. D | 39. C |
| 20. B | 40. C |

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.

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 21. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 22. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 23. _____ |
| 4. _____  | 24. _____ |
| 5. _____  | 25. _____ |
| 6. _____  | 26. _____ |
| 7. _____  | 27. _____ |
| 8. _____  | 28. _____ |
| 9. _____  | 29. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 30. _____ |
| 11. _____ | 31. _____ |
| 12. _____ | 32. _____ |
| 13. _____ | 33. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 38. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 40. _____ |



### FOR JUDGE'S USE

Points from **OBJECTIVE**  
questions (each correct  
answer counts 1 point) \_\_\_\_\_

If in the top eight places,  
add the points from the  
**ESSAY** question \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL POINTS** \_\_\_\_\_

*Reminder:* Team score is based  
on the cumulative score of the  
multiple choice portion of the  
contest only. Do not count the  
essay scores toward the team  
championship.

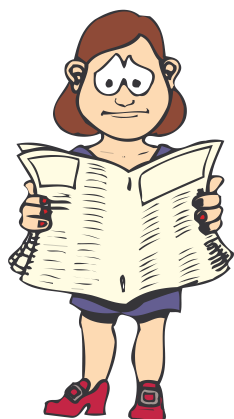
# Grading

## *the CI&E Contest*



**University  
Interscholastic  
League**

*Making a World  
of Difference*



*Current  
Issues  
&  
Events*

1. Distribute contests to students, who will then have 60 minutes to finish.
2. Grade the objective portions of the test.
3. Enter results of the objective portion of the contest into the UIL online entry system. Do not add essay scores to determine the overall team winner!
4. To determine the overall individual winner, pull the top eight papers. In the event of ties, select enough papers to fill eight slots. For example:

Slot	Place	# of correct answers
1	1	36
2	2 (tie)	35
3	2 (tie)	35
4	4	34
5	5 (tie)	32
6	5 (tie)	32
7	5 (tie)	32
8	8	30

*Tie for last slot:* If a tie for the eighth slot exists, then grade all those tied for the eighth slot, as in the example below. Then, add the scores from the essay portion of the contest to the objective scores.

Slot	Obj. only place	Objective score	Essay score	Total score	Final place
1 (Joe)	1st	36	5	41	2 (tie)
2 (Bo)	2nd (tie)	35	7	42	1
3 (Moe)	2nd (tie)	35	3	38	5
4 (Sue)	4th	34	7	41	2 (tie)
5 (Flo)	5th (tie)	32	8	40	4
6 (Bill)	5th (tie)	32	5	37	6
7 (Mary)	5th (tie)	32	4	36	did not place
8 (Lina)	8th (tie)	26	7	33	did not place
(Jim)	8th (tie)	26	6	32	did not place

*Tie for second place:* To break tie for second place, judge Joe's essay against Sue's essay. Award points accordingly. Break all ties for first through sixth place.

5. In a 3-person judging panel, must every judge grade each essay? Yes. If more than one person judges essays, make certain that judges reach agreement on which essay is the best. Do not rely solely on point totals. One judge may be more stringent than another. It is possible that a weaker essay, graded by a more lenient judge, can be awarded more points than a stronger essay, graded by a more strict judge.
6. Judges should not be excused until verification is completed and results announced as official.

# Rubric

## for the CI&E Essay

*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:

Judge 1

Judge 2

Judge 3

Consensus

**An 8-10 ESSAY** opens with a declarative statement that extends the prompt without re-stating it. The thesis is supported by substantial, relevant information that analyzes the prompt from a range of perspectives — for example, political, social, cultural and economic. It does not provide a mere shopping list of facts. It interprets the facts without editorializing. The essay is well written and organized with few spelling, grammar or punctuation errors. The essay is clear, precise and succinct.

**A 5-7 ESSAY** offers a clear thesis with limited development. It either deals with one aspect in depth or with all aspects more superficially while providing limited analysis. Generally good writing and organization skills displayed. May contain errors of fact that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.

**A 2-4 ESSAY** lacks a thesis or presents a confused or undeveloped thesis. It deals with the prompt in a superficial way and offers no analysis. Instead, it tends to editorialize. May contain major fact errors, display poor writing skills and rely on bloated, pretentious language.

**A 0-1 ESSAY** displays little or no understanding of the prompt. The response is poorly written and organized and may contain significant fact, grammar, punctuation and/or spelling errors that detract from the clarity of the response.

Comments:

**OVERALL ESSAY SCORE**

(maximum of 10 points)

**OBJECTIVE SCORE**

(score from the objective portion of the test)

**OVERALL SCORE**

(add essay score to objective score)