



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
Making a World of Difference

CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

 @UILCIANDE
2019 • DISTRICT



WHITE HOUSE PHOTO BY JOYCE BOGHOSIAN

President Donald Trump is applauded as he delivers his State of the Union address at the U.S. Capitol on Feb. 5.

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DISTRICT • 2019

- 1. The calls continued for weeks for Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam to resign. He steadfastly refused. He said he was not one of the people in a racially charged photo that appeared where?**
 - a. in the National Enquirer
 - b. on Wikileaks
 - c. in his medical school yearbook
 - d. on Facebook
- 2. Apple became the first U.S. company worth \$1 trillion — \$1,000,000,000,000 — last August. About a month later, another U.S. company reached that milestone and together the two companies make up more than 8 percent of the entire value of the S&P 500. What company followed Apple?**
 - a. Walmart
 - b. Toyota
 - c. Amazon
 - d. Exxon Mobil
- 3. For the first time since it was created in 1965, the federal government has allowed a work requirement in what program, resulting in thousands of people being dropped from the program in Arkansas alone?**
 - a. Medicaid
 - b. Federal Unemployment Insurance
 - c. Medicare
 - d. Social Security
- 4. The vaccine protecting against the virus is 97 percent effective. Some 90 percent of people who come in contact with an infected person will get the virus. Still, officials near Portland, Oregon, declared a public health emergency over an outbreak of what?**
 - a. Ebola
 - b. smallpox
 - c. chickenpox
 - d. measles
- 5. Elon Musk, Tesla’s chief executive, reached a deal with the Securities and Exchange Commission to resolve securities fraud charges. The settlement will force Musk to step aside as chairman for three years and pay a \$20 million fine. What did Musk do?**
 - a. prematurely released the company’s earnings statement that showed an unexpected loss
 - b. sent out a tweet saying he had “funding secured” for a buyout at \$420/share
 - c. announced he will be merging all his companies, including PayPal and Space X, a boon for stockholders
 - d. lied under oath about overseas holdings

- 6. A jury found Jason Van Dyke, a Chicago police officer, guilty for what crime that he committed in 2015?**
 - a. murdering high school freshman Jordan Edwards, who was black
 - b. shooting a 17-year-old, Laquan McDonald
 - c. felony gross sexual assault
 - d. killing his wife and a Prince William County police officer

- 7. Pope Francis became the first pontiff to visit the birthplace of Islam. Where?**
 - a. United Arab Emirates
 - b. Nepal
 - c. Morocco
 - d. Egypt

- 8. Voters elected Ilhan Omar in Minnesota and Rashida Tlaib in Michigan. What was true about these two?**
 - a. Being from neighboring states, they campaigned together and raised a record \$38 million.
 - b. They both are children of immigrants but were born in the United States as required by the Constitution.
 - c. They are the first non-white women to represent any traditionally red state.
 - d. They were the first Muslim women elected to Congress.

- 9. A dam collapse at an iron ore mine on Jan. 25 left 110 people dead and 238 people missing a week later. Where?**
 - a. Brazil
 - b. Venezuela
 - c. Australia
 - d. Republic of Congo

- 10. A major report produced by the World Wildlife Fund showed that humanity has wiped out what percent of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles since 1970 leading to an emergency that threatens civilization?**
 - a. 2.3%
 - b. 78%
 - c. 44%
 - d. 60%

- 11. In the aftermath of a devastating sexual abuse scandal, the United States Olympic Committee said it would begin disbanding the governing body of what sport?**
 - a. cycling
 - b. swimming
 - c. gymnastics
 - d. figure skating

- 12. Amazon received 238 proposals for its new headquarters location that will bring with it more than 50,000 jobs. What cities did Amazon choose?**
 - a. Austin, Texas, and Indianapolis, Indiana
 - b. Dallas, Texas, and Boston, Massachusetts
 - c. Nashville, Tennessee, and Columbus, Ohio
 - d. Crystal City, Virginia, and Long Island, New York

- 13. Republican Brian Kemp beat Stacey Abrams to become the governor of Georgia. Which of the following is also true?**
- Kemp became the first black man to be elected governor of Georgia.
 - Because they were both unabashed conservatives, voters chose based on other factors.
 - Kemp won the election in a contested recount by fewer than 5,000 votes.
 - Kemp, as Georgia's secretary of state, was accused of voter suppression.
- 14. Lawmakers voted 63-37 to advance a resolution opposed by the administration to cut U.S. support to the Saudis in Yemen even after a similar resolution failed last spring. What issue prompted passage of this resolution?**
- naming of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman as king
 - increase in oil prices by Saudi Arabia resulting in high prices at the pump during the holiday season
 - killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi
 - discussions by Iranian leaders against Houthi rebels
- 15. Donald Trump criticized Hillary Clinton for her use of a private email server. But in November, which Trump confidant was forced to defend use of her own private email for government business?**
- Betsy DeVos
 - Melania Trump
 - Kirstjen Nielsen
 - Ivanka Trump
- 16. The Yellow Vests protest movement swept across France, clashing with the police and wreaking havoc in Paris and other major cities, and defacing famed monuments such as the Arc de Triomphe. What was President Emmanuel Macron's initial solution?**
- increase the minimum wage to the equivalent of \$15/hour
 - suspend for six months a tax increase on gasoline and diesel fuel
 - increase the income tax for the wealthy
 - stop implementation of his education policies
- 17. The price has nearly doubled since 2013, and the list price is more than \$300 for a single vial. Most people with Type 1 diabetes need multiple vials of what drug every month to live?**
- D50 (a 50 percent solution of dextrose)
 - metformin
 - sulfonylureas such as gliclazide
 - insulin
- 18. What company revealed that hackers had breached its reservation system and had stolen the personal data of up to 500 million people, second only to a 2013 breach of Yahoo and larger than the Equifax breach of 2017?**
- American Airlines
 - Facebook
 - Under Armor
 - Marriott International

- 19. Just days after Defense Secretary Jim Mattis announced he would step down in late February, U.S. President Donald Trump fired him. Who became the acting secretary of defense as of Jan. 1?**
- Patrick Shanahan, a former vice president at Boeing
 - Gen. Stanley McChrystal, commander of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan
 - Ash Carter, a physicist
 - Matthew Whitaker, CNN contributor
- 20. House Bill 29 takes effect in 2019, requiring some businesses to post notices with a hotline number about what?**
- suicide
 - marijuana use
 - human trafficking
 - gambling addiction
- 21. The picture came back as a “pixelated blob,” but minutes into the new year, NASA’s New Horizons spacecraft made its closest approach to and sent back pictures of the most distant object ever visited by a spacecraft. What was the object?**
- Eris, a 10th planet
 - Ryugu, a big asteroid
 - Apollo 8, a man-made ship launched 50 years ago now drifting outside our solar system
 - Ultima Thule, an icy, ancient rock
- 22. In an attempt to cut down on “puppy mills,” California became the first state to ban pet shops from selling what?**
- dogs, cats and rabbits that aren’t from rescue centers
 - dogs that do not have a pedigree from the American Kennel Club
 - dogs with breeds not entered in the American Kennel Club such as “Whiskey” the whippet
 - dogs, cats and rabbits that are not neutered
- 23. At least 2,600 educators across the Denver Public Schools system left their classrooms in February, chanting and picketing outside schools and rallying at the state Capitol as the city’s first teachers strike in 25 years unfolded. What was their primary demand?**
- smaller class sizes
 - performance pay
 - more resources such as librarians and counselors
 - year-round school
- 24. After being elected unanimously on the opening day of the Texas Legislature, Dennis Bonnen (R-Angleton) replaced Joe Straus, who held a record-tying five terms in what position?**
- lieutenant governor
 - president pro tempore (third in line for the governorship)
 - speaker of the house
 - chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee
- 25. In what will become the military’s unified command for space, U.S. President Donald Trump directed the Department of Defense to reestablish what?**
- U.S. Space Force, a sixth U.S. military service
 - U.S. Space Command, the 11th combatant command
 - U.S. Air Force Space Command, a new branch of the U.S. Air Force
 - Mobile Infantry, a group of Marines trained for combat in space

26. How much does a first-class stamp for a letter up to 1 ounce cost?

- a. 55¢
- b. 50¢
- c. 70¢
- d. 45¢

27. Sarah Thomas made sports history Jan. 13. How?

- a. She refereed an NBA game with another woman, the first time two women had refereed a professional basketball game together.
- b. She was the first woman to work an NFL playoff game as an on-the-field official.
- c. She was the first woman hired as a Major League Baseball umpire.
- d. She was the first woman to win a scholarship in netball.

28. The team majority owned by California-based investor Anthony Precourt will be the 27th team in the league. As Austin's first major league sport, players will compete in a privately financed 20,000-seat stadium. What sport?

- a. soccer
- b. baseball
- c. hockey
- d. rugby

29. Knowing it was addictive and dangerous, "a manmade disaster," Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey accused Purdue Pharma and its owners of deceiving doctors and patients about the risks of what?

- a. marijuana, a psychoactive drug
- b. fentanyl, a narcotic
- c. OxyContin, a narcotic
- d. codeine, a narcotic

30. Amendment 4 to the Florida Constitution restored the voting rights of 1.5 million people in what group?

- a. people with felony records
- b. people with diagnosed mental illnesses
- c. undocumented immigrants
- d. people without a government issued identification

31. For more than 130 years, 12 towering murals have flanked a hallway in the University of Notre Dame's Main Building. But officials announced they plan to cover the murals. What did the murals depict?

- a. the brutal treatment of slaves in the Deep South
- b. Christopher Columbus's voyage to the Americas
- c. the Salem Witch trials
- d. the migration of indigenous people across the Americas

32. Progress in talks with the Taliban may lead to the end of America's longest war. Where?

- a. Vietnam
- b. Iraq
- c. Kosovo
- d. Afghanistan

- 33. A plaque was taken down from the Texas Capitol after a bipartisan effort from lawmakers to have it removed. What did it say?**
- It displayed the Ten Commandments.
 - It contained quotations from Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.
 - It explained why the state Capitol faces south toward Goliad, in memory of a horrific revolutionary battle.
 - It displayed the “Children of the Confederacy Creed” that claimed that slavery was not the root cause of the Civil War.
- 34. A federal trial began Oct. 15 accusing Harvard University of what?**
- discrimination against white male students in the top of their class
 - discrimination against students who couldn’t afford to pay
 - discrimination against Asian-American applicants
 - covering up sexual assaults by medical staff members
- 35. The UK, France, Germany, Spain and other European countries officially recognized opposition leader Juan Guaidó as interim president of what country?**
- Brazil
 - Georgia
 - Venezuela
 - Mexico
- 36. President Maithripala Sirisena said he dissolved Parliament and called elections to avoid possible violence. In what country?**
- Brazil
 - Cuba
 - Sri Lanka
 - Angola
- 37. Which state became the 20th state to ban the death penalty?**
- Washington
 - Delaware
 - Maryland
 - Michigan
- 38. Following five years of heated accusations that Moscow is violating the agreement, Mike Pompeo announced the U.S. is pulling out of the INF. What does this treaty deal with?**
- interfering in elections
 - nuclear arms control
 - releasing people accused of spying
 - seizure of naval ships in non-territorial waters
- 39. Roger Stone, a political consultant known for his use of opposition research and adviser to U.S. President Donald Trump, was indicted for lying to Congress about what?**
- his negotiations with Russia for putting a Trump hotel in Moscow
 - his communications with WikiLeaks
 - his past work for Ukrainian politicians and his finances
 - his finances and lobbying activity

40. Who chaired the Senate Judiciary Committee at the Supreme Court confirmation hearing of Brett Kavanaugh?

- a. John Cornyn (R-Texas)
- b. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa)
- c. Dianne Feinstein (D-California)
- d. Christopher Wray (FBI Director)

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.

After the State of the Union, the headline on CBS News was, “Trump lays out agenda to divided Congress in second State of the Union.” U.S. President Donald Trump did set out what he would like to see — and what he wouldn’t like to see — during the next year with a divided Congress. And there were some things he didn’t discuss.

There were few surprises.

Discuss THREE things Trump would like to see happen — or things he would NOT like to see happen or has not spoken on — in the upcoming year and how his opponents have responded.

DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS BEFORE OR DURING THE CONTEST!

ANSWER KEY

ESSAY PROMPT

After the State of the Union, the headline on CBS News was, “Trump lays out agenda to divided Congress in second State of the Union.” U.S. President Donald Trump did set out what he would like to see — and what he wouldn’t like to see — during the next year with a divided Congress. And there were some things he didn’t discuss.

There were few surprises.

Discuss **THREE** things Trump would like to see happen — or things he would **NOT** like to see happen or has not spoken on — in the upcoming year and how his opponents have responded.

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

POTENTIAL DISCUSSION POINTS

- *The wall.* Trump wants one on the U.S./Mexico border. The Democrats don’t. How this plays out between now and the 2020 election is anyone’s guess. Trump wants more than \$5 billion for what he now says is a barrier, maybe not so much brick and mortar. Historically, the Democrats have supported border security. Trump always has the ability to declare a national emergency in his back pocket while academics, pundits and opponents say this is an overreach of executive power. A majority of Americans (58 percent) continue to oppose substantially expanding the wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.
- *Immigration.* Around half of U.S. adults (51 percent) said immigration should be a top priority for Trump and Congress this year. On Jan. 8, Trump delivered an address to the nation on immigration. “Every day customs and border patrol agents encounter thousands of illegal immigrants trying to enter our country. We are out of space to hold them and we have no way to promptly return them back home to their country.” Trump views this as a crisis. The Democrats acknowledge there is a problem, but it’s not a crisis. The number of unauthorized immigrants is on the decline. The U.S. civilian workforce includes 7.8 million unauthorized immigrants, representing a decline since 2007.
- *Investigations.* Trump never tires of slamming special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. And Trump has repeatedly said he doesn’t want to be slowed down by more witch hunts. However, with a Democratically controlled House, there will be more.
- *Bipartisan cooperation.* Most Americans said they’d like to see cooperation between Trump and Congress, but Americans are deeply pessimistic about chances that partisan cooperation will improve in the coming year.
- *Climate change.* Trump didn’t even mention this in his speech. “His silence on the climate crisis is deafening,” said Leon W. Russell, chair of the board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Democrats on three congressional committees that have scheduled hearings about climate change took Trump to task for not addressing climate change in his speech. “Not once did the President mention perhaps the biggest challenge of our time: climate,” Democrats on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology tweeted during the speech. Speaker Nancy Pelosi has selected Rep. Nancy Castor (D-Fla.) to chair the new Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Two bills that could advance in the House: the Green New Deal and a carbon tax-and-dividend bill, H.R. 7173.
- *Healthcare.* Trump touched on several health policy issues and reiterated his desire to lower healthcare costs including price transparency, drug costs and curbing HIV. “My budget will ask Democrats and Republicans to make the needed commitment to eliminate the HIV epidemic in the United States within 10 years.”
- *Gender issues.* The #metoo movement continues. At the State of the Union, women wore white, a visual tribute to the U.S. suffragists. In one of the bigger surprises of the night, Trump actually got cheers and a standing ovation from the Democratic women in Congress. Yes, the Democratic women. During his presidential campaign, Trump backed an idea from his daughter, Ivanka Trump, to provide paid maternity leave. Trump reiterated his pledge in his State of the Union address, and included it in his proposed budget.
- There are numerous other items students might mention from gun control to trade.

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.

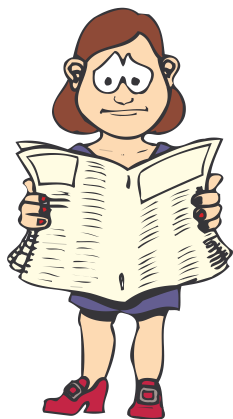
Grading

the CI&E Contest



**University
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*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:

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.

Judge 1

Judge 2

Judge 3

Consensus

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)