

CONTESTANT NUMBER _____



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

COPY EDITING CONTEST

REGION 2025

This test is produced, and should be graded,
using the 2024-2026 Associated Press Stylebook, 57th edition,
in print or updated on or before June 1, 2024, online.

Students may use the AP Stylebook, dictionary and/or thesaurus
during the exam.

FOR JUDGE'S USE

Points from PART 1

Points from PART 2

FINAL PLACE

POINTS/15

POINTS/20

TOTAL POINTS

FINAL PLACE

Part 3 is used ONLY in case of
tie. Rank entries in order, but
do not assign points.



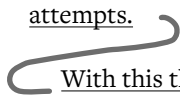


















There should be no ties.

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

RECOMMENDED EDITING MARKS

Students should use clearly understood editing symbols.

Students will NOT be penalized for using other symbols. It is up to the judges to determine if marks are "clearly understood."

 LEAGUETOWN, TEXAS — The organization	indent for paragraph
said Thursday.  It was the first and last	paragraph
attempts. 	no paragraph
With this the president tried	
the Jones Smith company is not	transpose
over a period of  or more years	use figures
there were  in the group.	spell out
former  Kirk attended	abbreviate
The  man was the guest of	don't abbreviate
king charles said it was his	uppercase
 as a result  This will be	lowercase
the ac cuser pointed to them	remove space
 In these times it is necessary	insert space
The order for the  devices	ignore correction
The ruling a fine example	insert word
according to the  source.	delete
	insert comma
	insert apostrophe
 	insert quotation marks
 	insert period
	insert hyphen
	insert dash
 misspelled mispeled	Spelling errors should be corrected, not simply marked for correction.

COPY EDITING CONTEST

REGION 2025

DIRECTIONS: This test is divided into three sections. Write all your responses as indicated. You have 15 minutes.

PART 1: Circle the correct response. (1 pt. each)

1. American public schools remain largely **separate / sepearate** and unequal.
2. We can go to the pool **and / but / or** we can go horseback riding, whichever you prefer.
3. The dog wagged **its / it's / its'** tail excitedly when people made food noises.
4. Skipping the exam negatively **affected / effected** his overall grade.
5. Antony Blinken made an unannounced visit to the **Middle East / middle east**.
6. The latest start to a women's match was exactly at **12 a.m. / 12 AM / midnight**.
7. For the ninth straight month, Earth has obliterated global heat records — with new high-temperature marks being set in **February / Feb. / FEB**.
8. "The Silence of the Lambs" moves from one **nailbiting / nail-biting / nail biting** sequence to another.
9. COVID made things worse for people with **OCD / O.C.D. / obsessive-compulsive disorder**.
10. The **dog's / dogs' / dogs** leash fell off, and the adopted terrier got loose.
11. Eduardo Sanchez and Dan Myrick, who **codirected / co-directed / co directed** the film, take us to the edge of belief, squirming in our seats the whole way.
12. The cost of hiring a **Realtor / realtor** who is a member of the National Association of Realtors to buy or sell a home may soon change.
13. The History of Magic classes were taught in **room 4F / Room 4F** at Hogwarts School.
14. The 150 members of the band **play / plays** every weekend.
15. He drew his conclusions from the nature of **mankind / humankind** itself.

UIL COPY EDITING REGION 2025

PART 2: Edit the following sentences to eliminate/correct **FOUR** (and only four) errors in wordiness, AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation in each of the five statements below. Use clearly understood editing symbols. Spelling errors should be corrected, not simply marked for correction. Judges will consider only the first four corrections marked. Any others will be ignored. Compound errors such as changing "First Lady" to "first lady" will be considered as one error. (4 pts. each)

POINTS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| <p>0 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>1. The median price for residential homes decreased 4.3 percent to \$360,000. However,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">school taxes increased by \$0.091, so the average home owner will pay an additional</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">\$3276 per year in school taxes.</p> |
| <p>0 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>2. On day 1, the therapist encouraged 1 patient to disassociate her struggles from past</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">traumatic experiences to better focus on healing.</p> |
| <p>0 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>3. The anchor for ABC World News Tonight, David Muir, said, at the present time,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">there is breaking news about a derecho fast-moving straight-line windstorm in the</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Texas panhandle.</p> |
| <p>0 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>4. The cat's tail wagged happilly, but it's paws were muddy; making a fowl-smelling</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">mess on the floor.</p> |
| <p>0 1 2 3 4</p> | <p>5. Based on a large-language model, the Generative artificial intelligence ChatGPT</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">wrote the previous sentence. No-one said artificial intelligence was perfect. Indeed,</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">AI can disseminate misinformation by hallucenating.</p> |

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UIL COPY EDITING REGION 2025

PART 3: In the space provided, edit the following news brief to make the wording clear and to eliminate wordiness as well as any errors in AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation. You do NOT have to rewrite the news brief. Make notes of anything you believe needs clarification, additional research or additional reporting. PART 3 WILL BE USED ONLY TO BREAK TIES BUT IS REQUIRED. In the event of a tie, if you do not make any effort on Part 3, your entire entry will be DISQUALIFIED.

You are editing for the April 25, 2025, issue of the Leaguetown School Press in Leaguetown, Texas.

Texas is 1 of 15 states that mandate annual inspections for non-commercial cars. That changed Jan. 1, 2025, thanks to Texas HB 3297, which passed in 2023 and eliminates most safety vehicle inspections.

Supporters of the bill called the safety inspections costly, time consuming and inconvenient.

“I work at Tommy’s Tacos every day after school and on weekends and most of my money goes to pay for gas and all the fees the state makes us pay,” senior Tanner Barnes said. “Its infuriating.”

Republican Representative Cody Harris of Palestine and Senators Mayes Middleton of Galveston and Bob Hall of Edgewood sponsored the Bill.

“The majority of our business is centered around making sure people’s vehicles are safe,” said Charissa Barnes, a highschool senior who works at the Jiffy Auto Inspection Station.

The Legislature repealed provisions in state law that mandate annual vehicle inspections. However, the \$7.50 fee remains intact under a new name; the inspection program replacement fee. That fee will be paid at the time the vehicle is registered with the Texas DMV.

The 17 Texas counties that require emissions inspections will still mandate annual emissions tests regardless of the new law.

All Texas noncommercial drivers outside of the exempted counties stand to be effected by the legislation. According to the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, 26 billion cars are registered in the State. Annual inspections are used to determine if certain features of a car, such as the tires, seat belts and brakes, are safe to drive with.

Texas roadways are notoriously dangerous. At least one person dies on a Texas road each day. In 2023, according to the most recent state data, 4283 people were killed in auto crashes in Texas.

Modified from “Beginning Jan. 1, cars registered in Texas won’t need to pass a safety inspection, but owners will still pay the fee” by Jayme Lozano Carver, June 1, 2023, and updated Dec. 26, 2024 on the Texas Tribune at <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/06/01/texas-car-safety-inspection-changes/>

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DIRECTIONS: This test is divided into three sections. Write all your responses as indicated. You have 15 minutes.

PART 1: Circle the correct response. (1 pt. each)

- American public schools remain largely separate / **seperate** and unequal.
- We can go to the pool **and** / **but** / or we can go horseback riding, whichever you prefer.
- The dog wagged its / **it's** / **its'** tail excitedly when people made food noises.
- Skipping the exam negatively affected / **effected** his overall grade.
- Antony Blinken made an unannounced visit to the Middle East / **middle east**.
- The latest start to a women's match was exactly at **12 a.m.** / **12 AM** / midnight.
- For the ninth straight month, Earth has obliterated global heat records — with new high-temperature marks being set in February / **Feb.** / **FEB.**
- "The Silence of the Lambs" moves from one **nailbiting** / nail-biting / **nail biting** sequence to another.
- COVID made things worse for people with **OCD** / **O.C.D.** / obsessive-compulsive disorder.
- The dog's / **dogs'** / **dogs** leash fell off, and the adopted terrier got loose.
- Eduardo Sanchez and Dan Myrick, who **codirected** / co-directed / **co directed** the film, take us to the edge of belief, squirming in our seats the whole way.
- The cost of hiring a Realtor / **realtor** who is a member of the National Association of Realtors to buy or sell a home may soon change.
- The History of Magic classes were taught in **room 4F** / Room 4f at Hogwarts School.
- The 150 members of the band play / **plays** every weekend.
- He drew his conclusions from the nature of **mankind** / humankind itself.

Notes for judges

No. 11 – co- Use a hyphen for nouns, adjectives and verbs that indicate occupation or status: co-author, co-chair, co-defendant, co-host, co-pilot, co-star, co-worker.

Tips for judges

Part 1

There is some subjectivity involved in all editing. If you find an error in the answer key, report it to the UIL office

UIL COPY EDITING REGION 2025

PART 2: Edit the following sentences to eliminate/correct FOUR (and only four) errors in wordiness, AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation in each of the five statements below. Use clearly understood editing symbols. Spelling errors should be corrected, not simply marked for correction. Judges will consider only the first four corrections marked. Any others will be ignored. Compound errors such as changing "First Lady" to "first lady" will be considered as one error. (4 pts. each)

Notes to judges

No. 1 – To calculate the increase in taxes for your home valued at \$360,000, you can follow these steps:

Convert the home's value into units of \$1,000:

$$\$360,000 / \$1000 = \$360$$

Multiply the number of units by the tax increase per \$1,000:

$$\$360 * 0.091 = \$32.76$$

The increase in taxes for the average home is \$32.76.

No. 3 – Derecho literally means "fast-moving straight-line windstorm" so don't be repetitive. The student may choose to remove the word "derecho" instead. Indeed, that sentence is full of wordy phrases including "at the present time."

No. 4 – AI rewrote the sentence as, "The cat's tail wagged happily, but its paws were muddy, making a mess on the floor." I would rewrite it as "The cat's tail wagged happily. However, its muddy paws made a mess on the floor." Regardless, a semicolon is incorrect.

Tips for judges

Part 2

There are four errors per item.

If fixing one error creates another, it counts as one.

There is some subjectivity in all editing. If a student finds another "error" or rewrites a sentence, the judges will have to consider how to award points.

This section is worth a maximum of 20 points.

1. The median price for residential homes decreased 4.5 percent to \$360,000. However,

school taxes increased by ^{9.1 cents} ~~\$0.091~~, so the average home owner will pay an additional

~~\$32.76~~ per year in school taxes.

2. On day 1, the therapist encouraged 1 patient to ^{dissociate} ~~disassociate~~ her struggles from past traumatic experiences to ^{better} ~~best~~ focus on healing.

3. The anchor for ABC World News Tonight, David Muir, said, ["] ~~at the present time,~~ there is breaking news about a derecho ~~fast moving straight line windstorm~~ in the

Texas panhandle.

4. The cat's tail wagged happily, but it's paws were muddy; making a ^{foul} ~~low~~-smelling mess on the floor.

5. Based on a large language model, the ~~Generative~~ artificial intelligence ChatGPT wrote the previous sentence. No one said artificial intelligence was perfect. Indeed, AI can disseminate misinformation by ^{hallucinating} ~~hallucenating~~.

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Why give his party and not the party of the other legislators?

Notes for judges

¶15 – There are several ways to fix the attribution problem with this quote. For example,

“...safe,” Charissa Barnes, a senior who works at the Jiffy Auto Inspection Station, said.

is another way.

¶18 –The first sentence is in passive voice. The student may note that. The student may rewrite the sentence as “The legislation stands to affect all Texas noncommercial drivers outside of the exempted counties.” Passive voice seems to be tolerable in this case to put emphasis on the drivers.

Tips for judges

Part 3

This section is ranked to break a tie in the combined scores of parts 1 and 2. Assign no points.

Judges should compare the papers of students who tied, ranking them accordingly.

When judging Part 3, holistically read the changes the student indicated starting with the highest level of editing.

- Highest level: Are there any legal or ethical issues with the story?
- Middle level: Does the story use the right sources? Does it flow?
- Lowest level: Grammar, spelling, punctuation, style

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