

CONTESTANT NUMBER _____



UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

COPY EDITING CONTEST

STATE 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 sixty or more years	use figures
there were 5 in the group.	spell out
former Captain Kirk attended	abbreviate
The Ala. 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 later devices	ignore correction
The ruling a fine example	insert word
according to the this source.	delete
	insert comma
	insert apostrophe
	insert quotation marks
	insert period
	insert hyphen
	insert dash
misspelled	Spelling errors should be corrected, not simply marked for correction.
mispeled	

COPY EDITING CONTEST

STATE 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. George H.W. Bush frequently mentioned his distaste for **broccolli / broccoli**.
2. The recipes run the **gantlet / gamut / gauntlet** from mains and sides to desserts and snacks.
3. Gretchen Macchiarella lived most of her life in the family home at **16 Fourth Ave. / 16 4th Ave. / Sixteen Fourth Avenue**.
4. Students applying to 23 of Georgia's public universities and colleges next year won't need to take the **Scholastic Aptitude Test / Scholastic Assessment Test / SAT**.
5. Two researchers looked at 18 years of data to see whether the law increased access to **Texas' / Texas** most selective public universities, UT-Austin and Texas A&M.
6. She **spoon fed / spoon-fed** him soup.
7. She is a part of the **Baby Boomers / baby boomers**.
8. Several main routes into Asheville were washed away or blocked by mudslides, including a **four-mile / 4-mile** section of Interstate 40.
9. The skein of geese **is / are** flying at dusk to avoid the heat.
10. The \$250 fine must be paid **before / prior to** bringing the dog home.
11. The administration made **climate change / global warming** a priority.
12. The European Union **Envoy / envoy** for the Western Balkans has urged Kosovo and Serbia to step up their efforts at normalization talks.
13. Zelenskyy has asked Ukraine's Western allies to go a few steps **farther / further**.
14. The helicopter crashed into a radio tower in **Houston / Houston, Texas**.
15. At least two people died in an **al-Qaeda / Al-Qa'ida / al-Qaida** attack.

TOTAL ____/15

UIL COPY EDITING STATE 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

0 1 2 3 4

1. Whether coding in JAVA or BASIC, computer programmers who graduate from

West Point have to write programs, to assess the efficiency of software and

determine the ethical implications of what they right.

0 1 2 3 4

2. The deformation results in variations in density that causes uneven heat flow and

limits the size of droplets that can be tested. Still, balls of ice — hale — more than

5 mm in diameter fell from the cloud during the Storm Warning.

0 1 2 3 4

3. She go to the store yesterday too buy some milk but it was closed.

0 1 2 3 4

4. Republican Senator Ted Cruz of Texas won re-election, defeating U.S. Rep.

Collin Allred and Democrats latest try at ending decades of GOP dominance.

0 1 2 3 4

5. King Charles III's cancer diagnosis put more pressure on the British monarchy,

which was still evolving after the 70-year rein of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

The King used his annual holiday message to acknowledge the selflessness of those

who cared for him, then he joined Kris Kringle for a gift giveaway for the homeless.

TOTAL ____/20

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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 Wednesday, May 19, 2025, issue of the Leaguetown School Press in Leaguetown, Texas.

The south Texas coal-fired power plant that provides power to all of the Leaguetown schools will receive more than \$1 billion in funding from the US Department of Agriculture to convert to a solar and battery facility, according to the Agency.

The switch by San Miguel Electric Cooperative, located outside Leaguetown in Leaguetown County, to a solar and battery plant will be funded by more than \$1.4 billion of a \$4.37 billion federal grant to support clean energy while maintaining rural jobs. With the co-ops transition to a renewable energy plant, only 14 coal fired power plants will be left in the state.

Other co-ops in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Minnesota, and Nebraska received similar federal funding.

In September, the CEO of San Miguel Electric Cooperative, Craig Courter, told a local newspaper that with federal funding, the co-op can “virtually eliminate our greenhouse gas emissions while continuing to provide affordable and reliable power to rural Texans.

“We take pride in our attention to detail in safety, environmental compliance, community service and mined land reclamation,” Courter told the “Pleasanton Express.”

According to the USDA’s Tuesday, May 18, 2025, announcement, the transformation will reduce climate pollution by more than 1.8 million tons yearly and support as many as 600 jobs. It will go a long way in cutting down on the plant’s contribution towards global warming according to one local expert.

The power plant has been a target of environmentalists and some locals for years. The ranching family that leased the land for the plant sought to kick San Migeul off it’s property last decade, saying the cooperative moved to slowly to restore land where it mined lignite to feed the plant. And groups like the Environmental Integrity Project and the Sierra Club have denounced it as a leading polluter of Mercury among Texas power plants.

Modified from “South Texas coal-fired power plant to switch to clean energy after receiving more than \$1 billion in federal money” by Juan Salinas II updated Dec. 21, 2024, <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/12/20/texas-coal-fired-power-plant-conversion-clean-energy/>

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- Gretchen Macchiarella lived most of her life in the family home at **16 Fourth Ave.** / **16 4th Ave.** / **Sixteen Fourth Avenue**.
- Students applying to 23 of Georgia's public universities and colleges next year won't need to take the **Scholastic Aptitude Test** / **Scholastic Assessment Test** / **SAT**.
- Two researchers looked at 18 years of data to see whether the law increased access to **Texas'** / **Texas** most selective public universities, UT-Austin and Texas A&M.
- She **spoon fed** / **spoon-fer** him soup.
- She is a part of the **Baby Boomers** / **baby boomers**.
- Several main routes into Asheville were washed away or blocked by mudslides, including a **four-mile** / **4-mile** section of Interstate 40.
- The skein of geese **is** / **are** flying at dusk to avoid the heat.
- The \$250 fine must be paid **before** / **prior to** bringing the dog home.
- The administration made **climate chang** / **global warming** a priority.
- The European Union **Envoy** / **envoy** for the Western Balkans has urged Kosovo and Serbia to step up their efforts at normalization talks.
- Zelenskyy has asked Ukraine's Western allies to go a few steps **farther** / **further**.
- The helicopter crashed into a radio tower in **Houston** / **Houston, TX**.
- At least two people died in an **al-Qaeda** / **Al-Qa'ida** / **al-Qaida** attack.

Notes for judges

No. 9 – A skein can refer to either a flying group of wildfowl (usually geese), or – weirdly – a length of yarn. “Skein” is a collective noun, so it takes a singular verb.

No. 14 – **Houston** The city in Texas stands alone in datelines. The state also would not likely be used in Texas publications. Regardless, given the two choices, “TX” would not be used as an abbreviation for the state.

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

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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)

1. Whether coding in ^{Java}~~JAVA~~ or BASIC, computer programmers who graduate from the U.S. Military Academy ~~West Point~~ have to write programs, to assess the efficiency of software and ^{to} determine the ethical implications of what they ^{write}~~right~~.

2. The deformation results in variations in density that causes ~~I~~ uneven heat flow and ~~I~~ limits the size of droplets that can be tested. Still, balls of ice — ^{hail}~~hale~~ — more than ~~I~~ 5mm in diameter fell from the cloud during the ~~S~~ storm warning.

3. She ^{went}~~go~~ to the store yesterday too ~~I~~ buy some milk but ~~it~~ ^{the store} was closed.

4. Republican ~~senator~~ Ted Cruz of Texas won re^e-election, defeating U.S. Rep.

~~I~~ Collin Allred and Democrats' ^vlatest try at ending decades of GOP dominance.

5. King Charles III's cancer diagnosis put more pressure on the British monarchy,

which was still evolving after the 70-year ^{reign}~~reim~~ of the late Queen Elizabeth II.

The ~~king~~ used his annual holiday message to acknowledge the selflessness of those

who cared for him, then he joined Kris Kringle for a gift giveaway for ^s ~~the homeless~~ ^{homeless people}.

Notes to judges

No. 1 – West Point is acceptable on second reference to the U.S. Military Academy.

No. 2 – The subject of the relative clause – “variations” – is plural, so the verb “causes” should be corrected to “cause.” You can’t fix one without fixing the other – “limit” not “limits” – and that is one correction.

No. 3 – The milk wasn’t closed. The store was. Make that clear.

No. 5 – Avoid dehumanizing collective nouns like the homeless, instead using constructions like homeless people, people without housing or people without homes.

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.

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Notes for judges

¶12 – The first sentence is in passive voice, but rewriting it active sounds awkward and puts unnecessary emphasis on the money.

¶14 – If a paragraph does not start with quotation marks but ends with a quotation that is continued in the next paragraph, use close-quote marks if the quoted material does not constitute a full sentence.

¶16 – Review AP Stylebook section on climate change.

Use Monday, Tuesday, etc., for days of the week within seven days before or after the current date.

¶17 – Some people will have an issue with beginning a sentence with “And,” but it’s certainly not wrong. It is OK to use another transition word such as “Further.”

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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