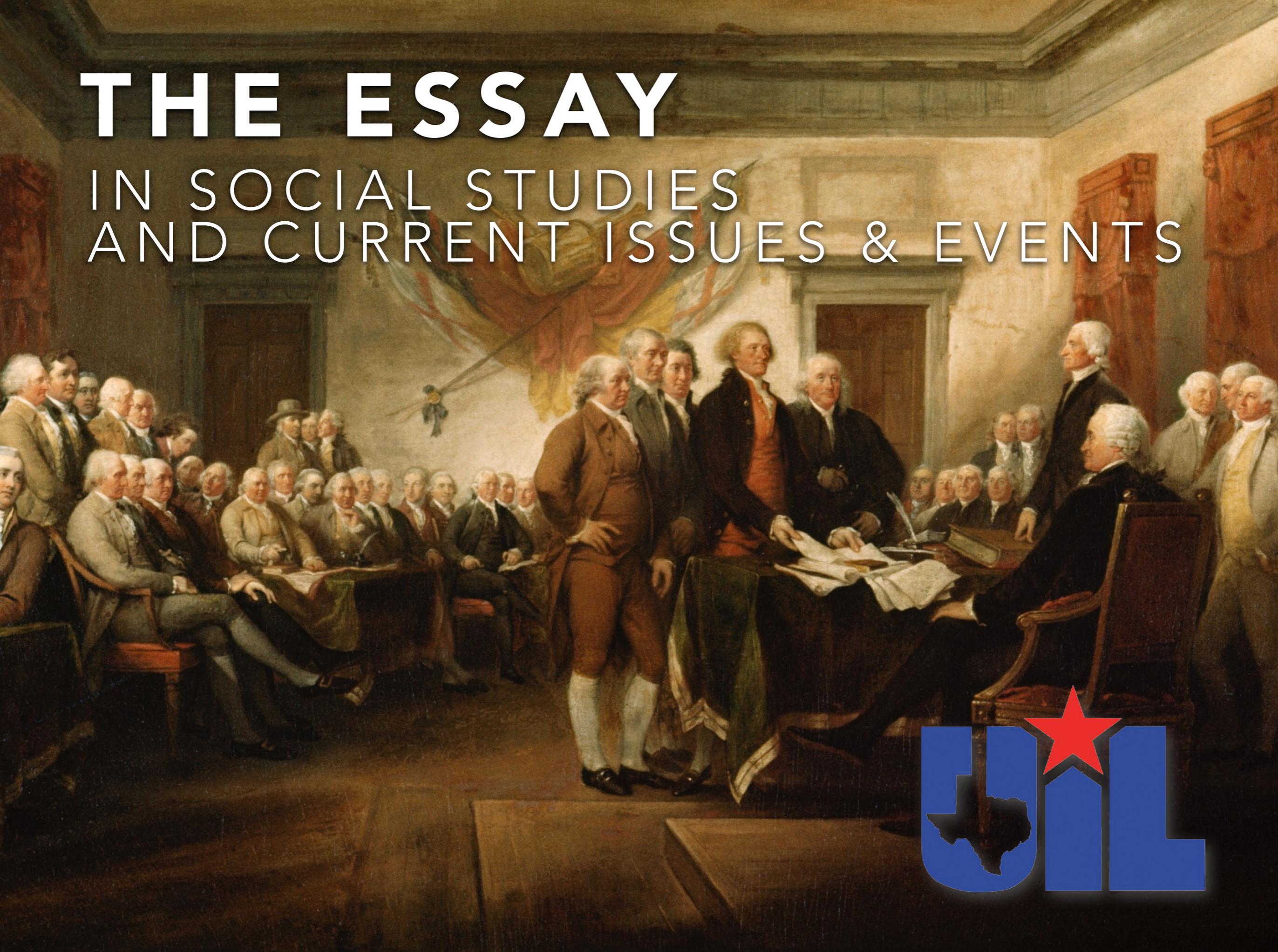


# THE ESSAY

IN SOCIAL STUDIES  
AND CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS



# WHY HAVE AN ESSAY?

- It acts as the determinate factor in deciding the best of the best.
- Allows contestants to demonstrate their extensive knowledge.
- Strikes a balance between objective and subjective.
- Writing.



HOW TO HIRE THE BEST

# Study: 73% of Employers Want Candidates With This Skill

Data shows that strong writing skills make candidates more favorable.



BY KALEIGH MOORE Contributor, Inc.com @kaleighf



2 COMMENTS



Be prepared to showcase your writing skills in an interview. CREDIT: Getty Images

When torn between potential new hires, it might be wise to choose the candidate with strong writing skills.

We know that businesses are spending billions each year on remedial

Find accounting talent you need — right now.

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An EOE M/F/D/V

ADVERTISEMENT

NEXT ARTICLE

## TODAY'S MUST READS

Why Right Now Is the Best Time to Start a Business, According to a Serial Entrepreneur

# JOB

ECONOMY | WORLD ECONOMY | US ECONOMY | THE FED | CENTRAL BANKS | **JOB** | GDP OUTLOOK

## Why Johnny can't write, and why employers are mad

Kelley Holland | @KKelleyHolland  
Monday, 11 Nov 2013 | 6:00 AM ET



115 SHARES

325 COMMENTS Join the Discussion



Can you tell a pronoun from a participle; use commas correctly in long sentences; describe the difference between its and it's?

If not, you have plenty of company in the world of job seekers. Despite stubbornly high **unemployment**, many employers complain that they



**THE WRONG PART  
CHANGES EVERYTHING.  
THAT'S WHY PENSKE  
LOGISTICS HAS  
STATE-OF-THE-ART  
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS.**

“Recruiters and companies are saying, 'Send us a writing sample, and if you don't meet our standards for communication, we are not hiring you.' College students often don't realize how important on-the-job writing is.”

Cynthia Linville, Sacramento State University

# THE PROCESS

Read the essay prompt.

*Freak out.*

Take the test.

Read the essay prompt.

Write an outline.

Read the prompt.

Write a draft.

Read the prompt.

Edit and rewrite.

TIP:

Neatness counts. If the judges can't read your essay, they will, naturally, have a hard time rewarding it.

# NEATNESS COUNTS

- Double space.
- Keep editing simple. Use single lines to cross out material.
- Proof for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors in the last couple minutes.
- Put your number at the top of every page. Do NOT put your name or school on any material.

# A GOOD ESSAY

- Answers the questions stated or implied in the prompt.
- Begins with a well-formed thesis. Opens with a clear, precise statement that assimilates information.
- Continues in a logical order.
- Flows smoothly.
- Contains few grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.

TIP:

The essay may analyze and interpret, but should not attempt to editorialize. The very nature of expository writing requires the writer to enhance the reader's understanding of a subject by analyzing its parts and interpreting its meaning.

TIP:

Work on transitional or directional words. The essay should have a clear, organized, logical order, and information should flow from one idea to the next.

TIP:

Make sure to have a THESIS  
and ANSWER THE QUESTION  
(no matter how much you wish it was  
about something else).

TIP:

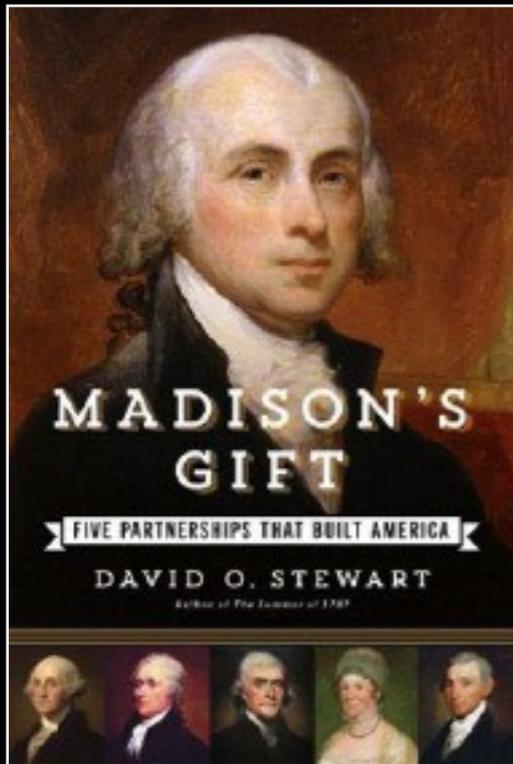
Examine the question in a variety of contexts: social, political, scientific, cultural and economic, for example.

# ABOUT THE CI&E CONTEST



- 40 objective questions
- Essay (10 points)
- 60 minutes
- Top score individual (objective plus essay)
- Top score team (objective only; top three individuals constitute team score)

# ABOUT THE SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST



- 45 objective questions  
= 80 total points
- Essay (20 points)
- 90 minutes
- Top score individual (objective plus essay)
- Top score team (objective only; top three individuals constitute team score)

# 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

NAME	OBJECTIVE	ESSAY	TOTAL
BRITNEY	32	5	37
LINDSEY	30	7	37
TARA	28	10	38
JUAN	27	10	37
JAYDEN	26	8	34
SOPHIA	26	5	31
NICOLE	25	3	28
HILARY	24	9	33

# THE ESSAY

The essay matters.  
Contestants who fail to submit  
an essay shall be disqualified

# SOCIAL STUDIES GRADING THE ESSAY

Contestants who do not write an essay will be disqualified. Any essay that does not demonstrate a sincere effort to discuss the assigned topic will be disqualified.

The rankings of essays will be based primarily on how well the topic has been addressed.

# *for the Social Studies Essay*

*Judges may award all or no points. This is a working document for as r  
Final points are a compromise among judges, NOT A RUNNING POIN  
point averaging. Return this form to the student with the objective port*

## ■ **Points AWARDED:**

**A 16-20 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.

**An 11-15 ESSAY** offers a clear thesis with limited development. It either deals with

**Judge 1**

**Judge 2**

**Jud**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

# CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

## GRADING THE ESSAY

**In a three-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.



**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.

---

**Comments:**

**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

**CIE**

CURRENT  
ISSUES  
and EVENTS

# CLOSING THOUGHTS

Keep it simple.

Don't rant.

Don't be silly.

Open with a clear statement.

Organize your facts.

Move forward logically.

Use a conclusion to bring ideas full circle.

# THE ESSAY

The essay matters.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

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## **CURRENT ISSUES**

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