



CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS

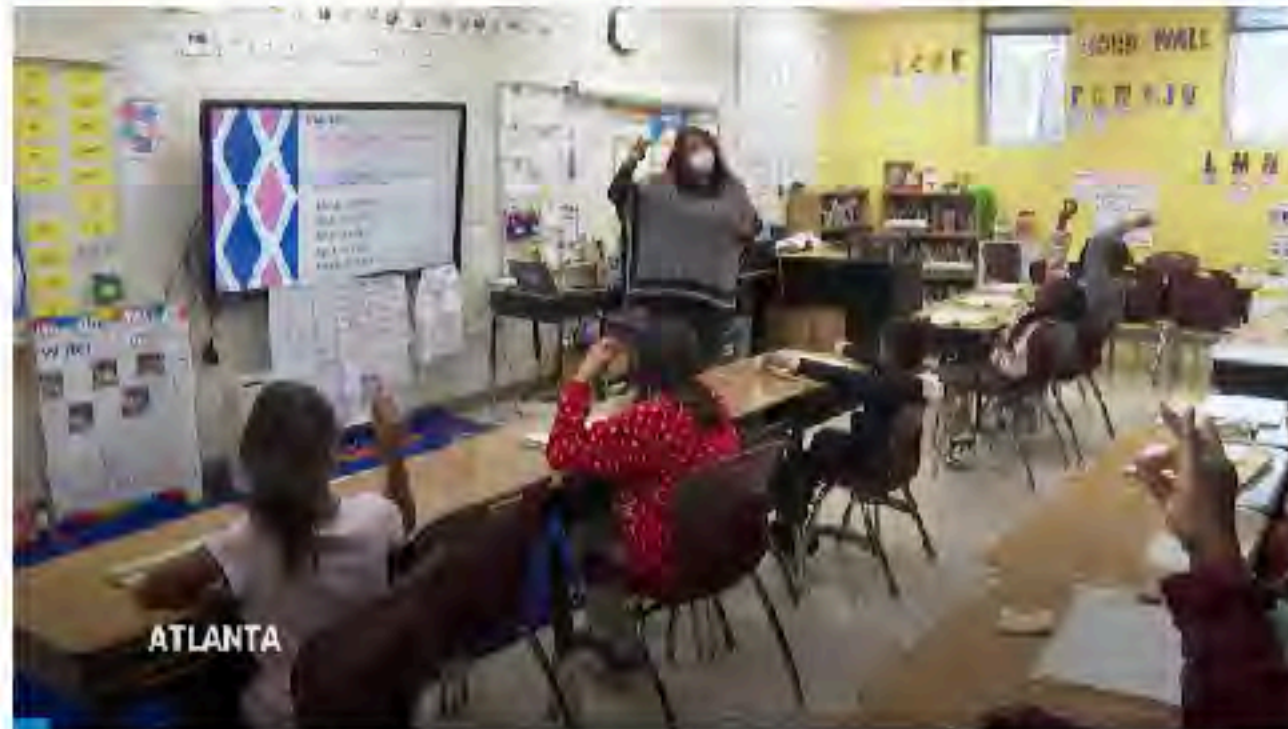
BRADLEY WILSON, PH.D. | CONTEST DIRECTOR
2023-2024

US history, civics scores drop for nation's 8th graders. What experts say is to blame.



Kayla Jimenez
USA TODAY

Published 12:01 a.m. ET May 3, 2023 | Updated 12:14 p.m. ET May 3, 2023



Schools race to catch up kids' reading

Third grade is the last chance for students to master reading with help from teachers before they face more rigorous expectations. If third graders don't read fluently by the time the school year ends, research shows they're less likely to complete high school. (April 20) AP

Another set of test results shows the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on American students: National history scores dropped yet again, and eighth graders lost significant ground in civics for the first time.

Nearly all of the nation's eighth graders fell behind in U.S. history and civics in 2022 compared with 2018 on the [National Assessment for Education Progress](#), also called the Nation's Report Card, according to scores released Wednesday. Declines were expected because of the shift to remote teaching and the loss of instruction time when the pandemic hit. But for these subjects, experts also worry [friction over what students are taught in American history classes](#), especially about race and slavery, are a factor.

Lower average civics score for eighth-graders than in 2018

The average civics score for eighth-grade students in 2022 was 2 points lower compared to 2018, the previous civics assessment year. The 2022 average score was not significantly different compared to the first civics assessment in 1998. Average scores are reported on the NAEP civics scale, which ranges from 0 to 300.

The chart below shows the trend in average civics scores beginning in 1998 and the cut score[®] indicating the lower end of the score range for each NAEP achievement level: *NAEP Basic*[®], *NAEP Proficient*[®], and *NAEP Advanced*[®]. Read a description of each NAEP achievement level by clicking the question mark icons. Read more about how [NAEP achievement levels](#) are set. Please note, NAEP achievement levels are to be used on a trial basis and should be interpreted and used with caution.

FIGURE | Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics average scores

DISPLAY AS  **GRAPH**  **TABLE**

[Download graph](#) 



Civics score declines for the first time; score unchanged compared to 1998

In 2022, the average civics score at eighth grade decreased by 2 points compared to 2018. The average score in 2022 was not significantly different from 1998, the first year the assessment was given. The average score is reported on the NAEP civics scale, which ranges from 0 to 300.

[Explore detailed average score results in the NAEP Civics Report Card](#)

FIGURE | Trend in eighth-grade NAEP civics average scores



LEGEND

- * Significantly different ($p < .05$) from 2022.

NOTE: The score-point difference cited in this report is based on the difference between unrounded scores as opposed to the rounded scores shown in the figure.



Tweet



NPR 
@NPR



"We know that if you study civics in high school you are more likely to be an informed voter," researcher says



Can Teaching Civics Save Democracy?

Tweet your reply



FROM KALI GUINN, FLORIDA ELEMENTARY TEACHER

It is more important than ever for our students to learn to listen to various viewpoints, synthesize information, and form their own opinions. It's also important that they begin to see themselves as **actors of change** from a young age. Implementing current events in the classroom is a strategy that will keep students aware of real-world problems and situations.

JUNE 12, 2019

Americans have an abysmal knowledge of the nation's history and a majority of residents in only one state, Vermont, could pass a citizenship test.

Only 27% of those under the age of 45 across the country demonstrate a basic knowledge of **American history**. And only four in 10 Americans passed the exam.

AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE GAP

Do immigrants who are here illegally have any **rights** under the U.S. Constitution?

Name the five **freedoms** guaranteed under the First Amendment.

Name the three **branches** of government.

Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution resulted in **freedom** for slaves?

Who is the **chief justice** of the U.S. Supreme Court?

Only **47%** of U.S. adults could **name all three branches of government**, down from 56% in 2021 and the first decline on this question since 2016.

Less than **24%** could name **freedom of religion** as a freedom guaranteed in the First Amendment, down from 56% in 2021.

51% continue to assert incorrectly that **Facebook is required** to let all Americans express themselves freely on its platform under the First Amendment.

Freedom of **speech** was cited by 63%, down from 74% in 2021 and 73% in 2020.

Freedom of **religion** was named by 24%, down from 56% in 2021 and 47% in 2020.

Freedom of the **press** was named by 20%, down from 50% in 2021 and 42% in 2020.

Right of **assembly** was named by 16%, down from 30% in 2021 and 34% in 2020.

Right to **petition** the government was named by 6%, down from 20% in 2021 and 14% in 2020.

The number of individuals who incorrectly named the right to **bear arms** – which is guaranteed under the Second Amendment, not the First – tripled to 9% from 3% in 2020 and 2021.

AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

26% of respondents believe Brett Kavanaugh is the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, and 14% of respondents selected Antonin Scalia, who died in 2016.

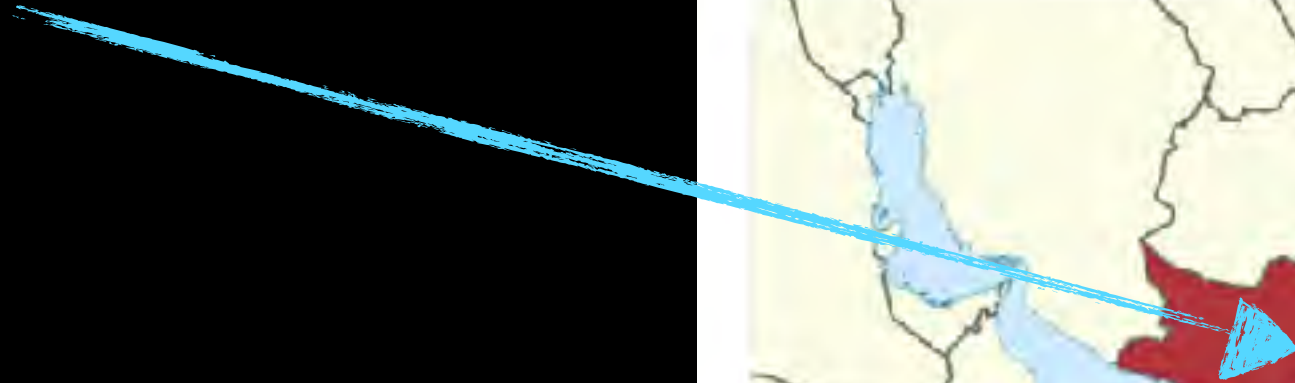
18% of respondents identified Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY), elected to Congress in 2019, as the author of The New Deal, a suite of public programs enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1930s.

AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

12% of respondents understand the relationship between the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment, and correctly answered that the 13th Amendment freed all the slaves in the United States.

AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE GAP

PAKISTAN



10:47



Tweet



Bon Voyaged
@BonVoyaged_

2:11 PM

9/10 Americans Can't Name This Country



bonvoyaged.com
Can You Pass This World Map Quiz?

10:07 AM · 7/29/22 · [AdRizer Twitter App](#)

Promoted

10 Retweets **14** Quote Tweets **118** Likes

Americans prefer Miley to Syria stories by huge number

Maria Puente, USA TODAY

Published 5:35 p.m. ET Sept. 8, 2013 | Updated 5:46 p.m. ET Sept. 9, 2013

Americans would rather read about the latest transgressions by Miley Cyrus than the latest horrors in Syria. Are we surprised?



(Photo: Kevin Mazur/WireImage for MTV)



You probably already sensed that media coverage of Miley Cyrus' shenanigans would be more popular with Americans than stories about mass murder in Syria and the possible U.S. intervention there.

But someone has actually calculated exactly how much more popular Miley is than Syria: 12 times more popular. It's another one of those signs that suggests...well, something about the state of our culture.

A new survey by [Outbrain](#), a leading "content discovery platform" on the Web, tracked traffic data from its network of 100,000 publishers and major news organizations and found that Americans viewed 12 times as many pages about Miley-the-twerker as they did about Syria-the-damned. *New York* magazine's popular fashion blog, [The Cut](#), summed it up.

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- What does this say about American culture and media?
- Is a twerking twentysomething more interesting than bombing Syria?

The disparity is in spite of the fact that hundreds of Syrians, including more than 400 kids, were recently passed to death, apparently by their own government, and despite the fact that more than twice as many news stories about Syria have been published for every one about Miley in recent days.


STORY FROM HOONUIT

Customer Spotlight: Riverland Community College

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AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

A large majority of teens age 13 to 17 in the U.S. (78%) say it's important to them to follow current events, and their news habits reflect the diversity of the modern media landscape.

Common Sense Media and Survey Monkey, 2019

AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

More than half (54%) of teenagers say they find news at least a few times a week from social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter.

Common Sense Media and Survey Monkey, 2019

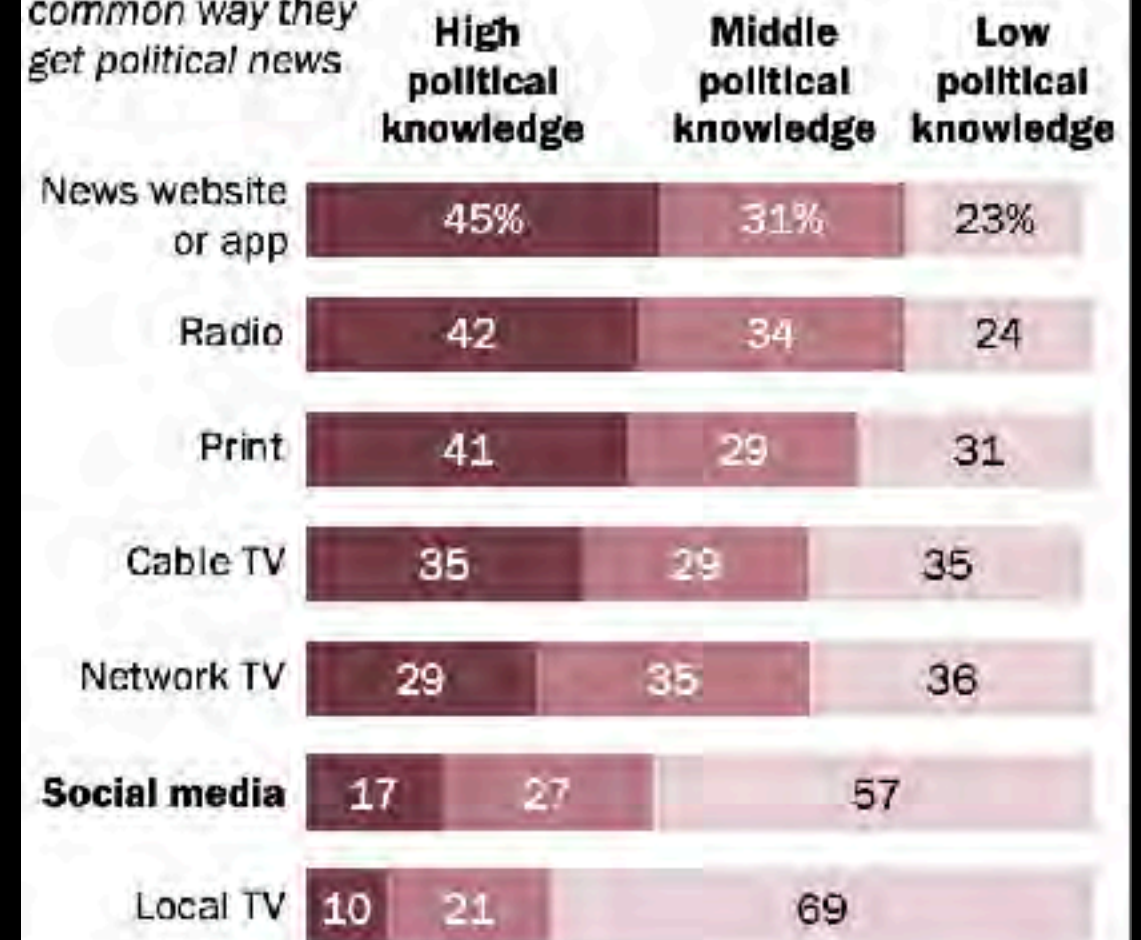
AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

Those who relied on social media for news were less likely than most others to be knowledgeable about current events.

Americans who primarily get political news from social media are among least knowledgeable about politics

% of U.S. adults who have ____, according to an index of nine knowledge questions

Among those who say ____ is the most common way they get political news



Note: Knowledge index created from nine political knowledge questions. Respondents with high political knowledge are those who answered eight or nine questions correctly, middle knowledge are those who answered six or seven questions correctly and low knowledge are those who answered five or fewer questions correctly.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019. "How Americans Navigated the News in 2020: A Tumultuous Year in Review"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

FROM TRAVIS RINK, MIMIO EDUCATOR

More than ever, an appreciation for news and our civic institutions is a key step toward self-empowerment and advancement.

FROM TRAVIS RINK, MIMIO EDUCATOR

As educators, it's our job to make sure that students are armed with the tools necessary to distinguish between fact, fiction, and plain old opinion; between research or evidence-based statements and empty rhetoric; between exaggeration and reputable journalism – not just “factoids” from Facebook, Twitter, or other information feeds.

ASSESSMENT



Pat Sajak, after 41 seasons, announced his retirement as host of Wheel of Fortune . Who will replace him?

- a. Vanna White
- b. Bob Barker
- c. **Ryan Seacrest**
- d. Ken Jennings

ASSESSMENT



Which of the following is true of former President Donald Trump?

- He was found guilty and ordered to pay millions in an alleged hush-money payment to a porn star.
- He faces 91 felony counts in four different states.
- He admitted to interfering in an election by asking for votes in Georgia.
- He was handcuffed, fingerprinted and sent to jail for financial crimes in New York.

ASSESSMENT



Which state does NOT have ban on abortion with an exception for rape or incest?

- a. Georgia
- b. Indiana
- c. Mississippi
- d. Texas

ASSESSMENT



Why was whiskey maker Jack Daniels allowed, according to the U.S. Supreme Court, allowed to sue the maker of Bad Spaniels, a dog toy?

- a. Dogs were dying from alcohol poisoning.
- b. **The dog toys were a trademark infringement.**
- c. The dog treats made use of illegally obtained recipe components.
- d. Dogs mistook the toy for the real bottle of whiskey.

ASSESSMENT



Which Texas political leader was impeached over allegations of misconduct that included bribery and abuse of office then removed from office pending outcome the Senate trial that started Sept. 5?

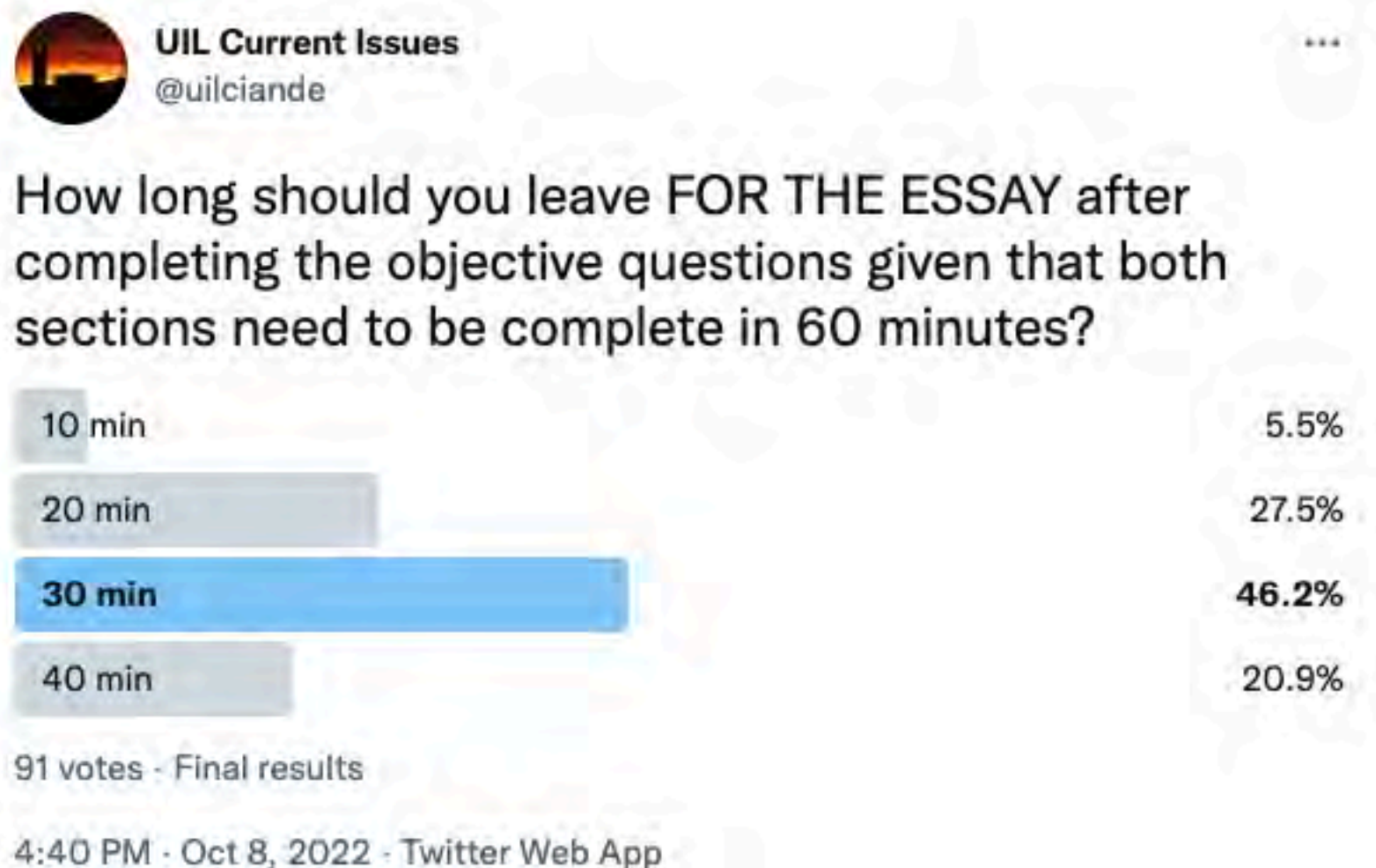
- a. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott
- b. Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick
- c. Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phalen
- d. **Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton**

ABOUT THE CONTEST



- 40 objective questions (2 pts. each)
- Essay (20 points)
- 60 minutes
- Top score individual (objective plus essay)
- Top score team (objective only; top three individuals constitute team score)

TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION



TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION



- **60 minutes total**
 - 2 minutes, read prompt for essay
 - 30 minutes objective
 - 25 minutes essay
 - 1 minutes, read prompt
 - 2 minutes, outline
 - 18 minutes, write
 - 4 minutes, edit and rewrite
 - 3 minutes review entire test and ensure that your number is on all pages

WHO MAY ENTER?



- School may enter four students at district.
- Three individuals advance from district to regional to state.
- Four members of winning team advance.

ELEMENTS OF NEWS

- **Timeliness** – when?
- **Conflict** – political, ideological, cultural
- **Consequence** – what? why is it important?
- **Prominence** – who?
- **Proximity** – where? how?
- **Oddity** – unusual events that make the news
- **Human Interest** – newsmakers in a more human role

WHO QUESTION

Although the move didn't fit the state's flag protocol, Florida's governor in February ordered flags in the state flown at half-staff for who, a person the governor called "an absolute legend" and "a great person"?

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- b. Larry Flynt
- c. Chuck Corea
- d. Rush Limbaugh

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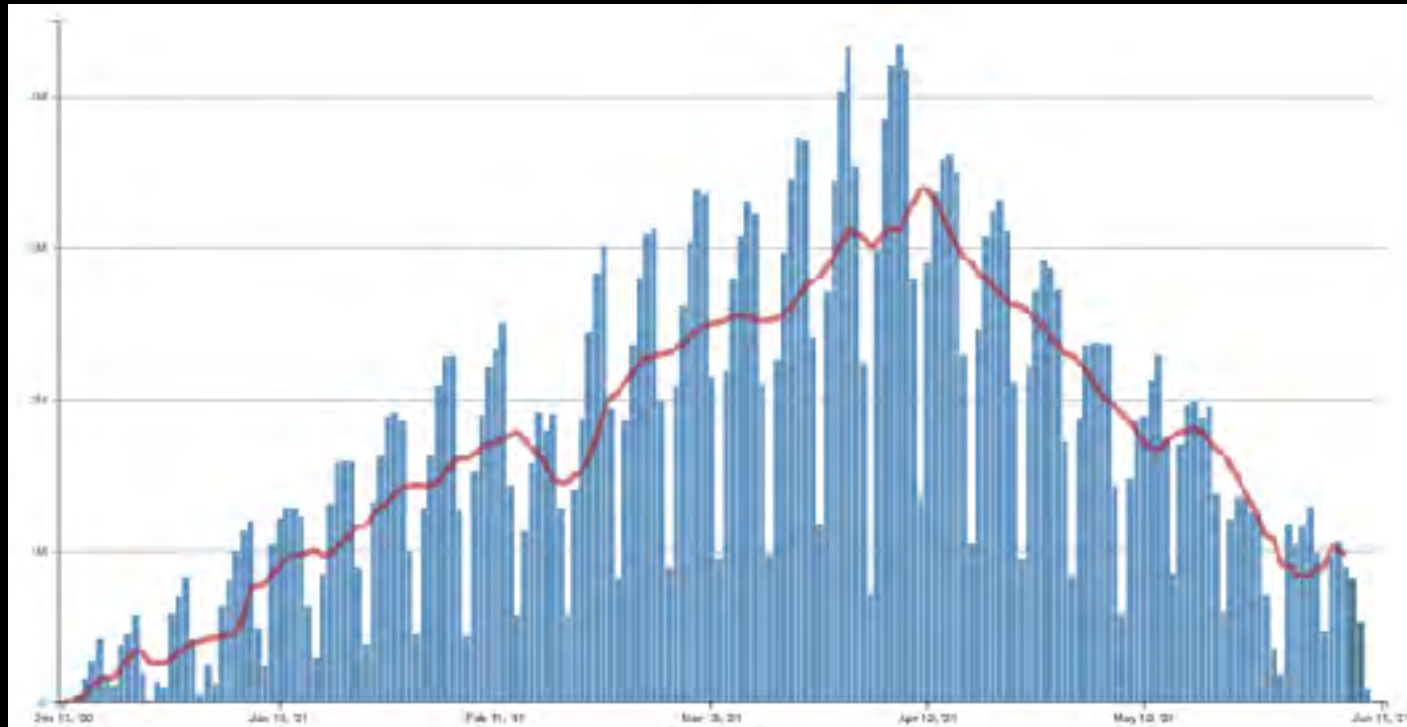
WHO QUESTION



Who was the world's second-longest serving monarch, having served 70 years and 214 days?

- a. Louis XIV (France)
- b. Elizabeth II (United Kingdom)
- c. Rama IX (Thailand)
- d. Victoria (United Kingdom)

CHART QUESTION



Using data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, what does the chart above represent?

- a. the number of people in the United States who have died of COVID-19 per day
- b. the number of people in the world who have died of COVID-19 per day
- c. the number of people in the U.S. hospitalized with COVID-19 per day
- d. the number of COVID-19 vaccines administered in the U.S. per day

WHAT QUESTION



According to scientists, there's a 99.9999 percent chance that what is the cause of climate change?

- a. the natural cycle of the planet
- b. cows
- c. **humans**
- d. expansion of the sun

WHICH QUESTION



As authorized by D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser which slogan was printed on the street in front of the White House?

- a. AllAloneTogether
- b. Make America Great Again
- c. MeToo
- d. **Black Lives Matter**

NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS

Which celebrity couple did not break up in 2023?

- a. Britney Spears and Sam Asghari
- b. Natalie Portman and Benjamin Millepied
- c. Taylor Swift and Matty Healy
- d. Jay-Z and Beyoncé

NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS



Who cares?

The power couple tied the knot 15 years ago, and have been running the music world ever since. Beyoncé and JAY-Z celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary in 2023, marking a major marriage milestone for music's most powerful duo.

NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS



WHO CARES?
**Remember criteria
for news**

Timeliness

Conflict

Consequence

Prominence

Proximity

Oddity

Human Interest

BUSINESS QUESTIONS

A new energy-friendly fleet of delivery vehicles and shorter office hours were just part of a massive 10-year plan Louis DeJoy had to make so that which business would be more competitive and more modern?

- a. the United State Postal Service (USPS)
- b. United Parcel Service (UPS)
- c. Amazon Home Delivery
- d. AT&T home service

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BUSINESS QUESTIONS

Even before it opened in China, Disney's new movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" was breaking records.

- Fastest film to gross \$1 billion – 12 days.
- Biggest worldwide opening weekend and single weekend gross – \$529 million.
- Biggest worldwide December opening weekend – \$529 million.

However, the movie, which opened Dec. 18, 2015, was not without controversy. Discuss some of the issues surrounding the production and release of the box office sensation.

NO IMPOSSIBLE STUFF



Who was U.S. President Donald Trump's personal secretary before she was fired after making comments about Ivanka Trump?

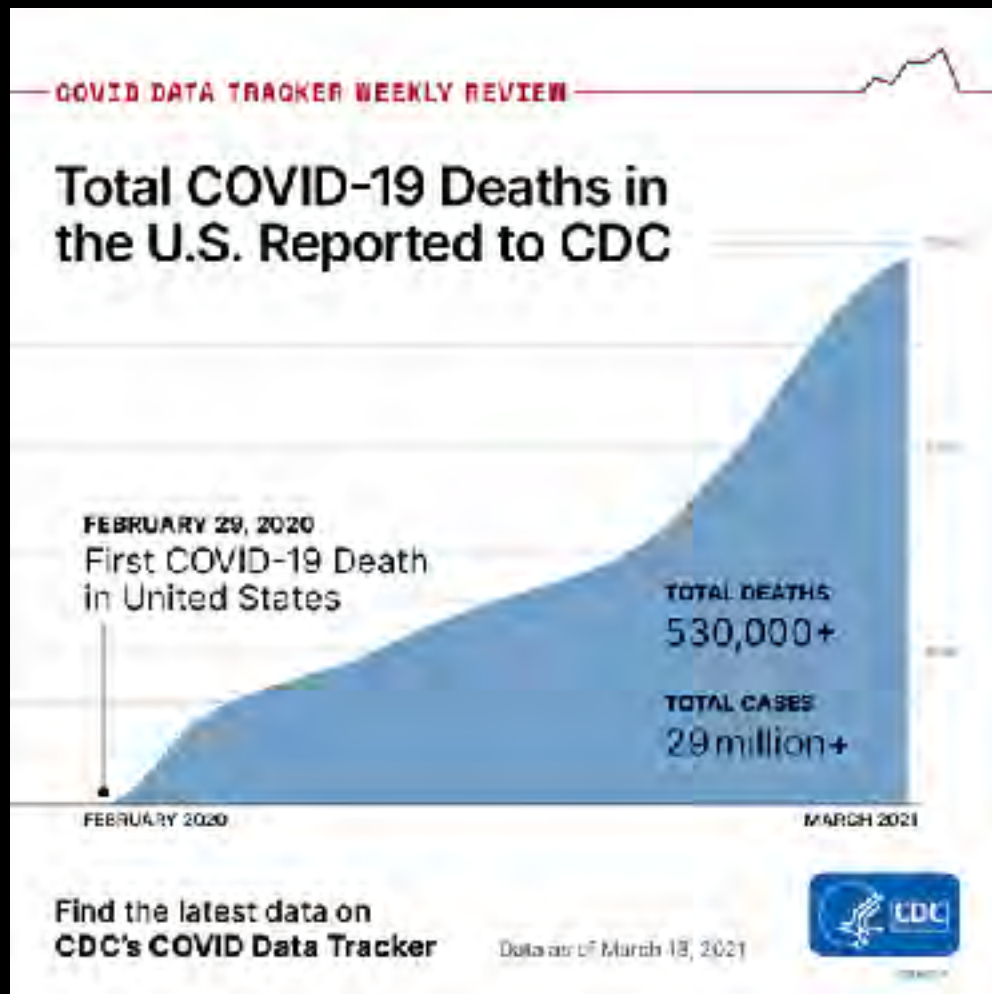
- a. John Kelly
- b. Madeleine Weterhout
- c. Mick Mulvaney
- d. Sarah Sanders

NUMBERS

President Joe Biden delivered the first prime-time address of his term on March 11. In the 24-minute speech, he pulled out a note on his schedule with the total deaths in the U.S. from COVID-19. How many?

- a. 23,399,584
- b. 2,647,251
- c. 527,726
- d. 36,919,777

NUMBERS



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NUMBER QUESTIONS

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

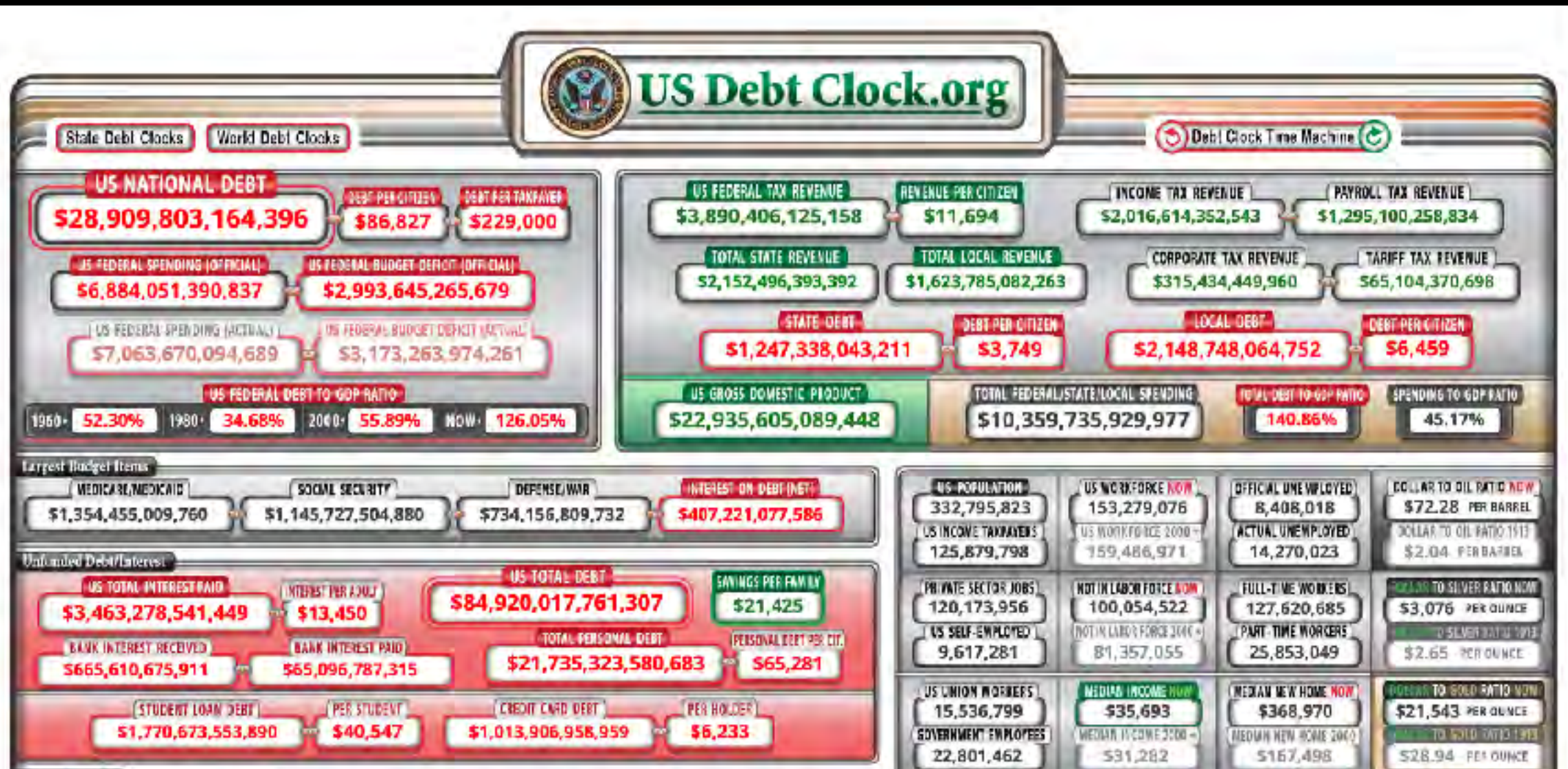
The Labor Department released its monthly hiring and unemployment figures in December, providing one of the better snapshots of the American economy. What was the unemployment rate at the end of the year?

- a. 10.1%
- b. 7.8%
- c. 4.7%
- d. 3.7%**

NUMBER QUESTIONS

The U.S. government's public debt is the highest it has ever been. Given that the U.S. population is about 330 million, how much debt is there for each person?

- a. about \$67,000
- b. about \$6,700
- c. about \$67 million
- d. about \$6.70



TRIVIA VS. NEWS



NOTHING TOO EASY

Hindering delivery of basic supplies to bakeries, hospitals, communication centers and other vital institutions nearby as well as worldwide oil supplies, a giant cargo ship, Ever Given, blocked what critical waterway in March?

- a. the Panama Canal
- b. Houston Ship Channel
- c. the Suez Canal
- d. Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal

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.06% GOT IT WRONG (ONE PERSON)
STATE 2021

NO SPORTS GAME QUESTIONS



Who won the Stanley Cup in June of 2023?

- a. **Vegas Golden Knights**
- b. Colorado Avalanche
- c. Florida Panthers
- d. Tampa Bay Lightning

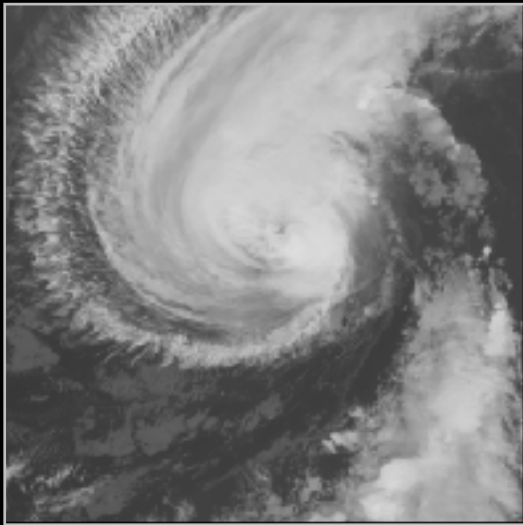
HOWEVER, I MIGHT ASK...



Justify won \$800,000 in the Belmont Stakes, after winning \$1.24 million in the Kentucky Derby and \$900,000 in the Preakness. Justify was only the 13th horse in history to capture what elite title?

- a. Super Bowl
- b. **Triple Crown**
- c. Cricket World Cup
- d. Formula One Racing

ENVIRONMENT



Which of the following is NOT true about the 2022 Atlantic hurricane season?

- a. For the first time in 25 years, not a single storm formed in August.
- b. The season's first storm, Alex, didn't become a tropical storm until after it left the mainland U.S.
- c. Bonnie crossed over Mexico from the Pacific Ocean and topped out as a Category 3 hurricane.
- d. Danielle formed in the Caribbean but died in the mid-Atlantic thanks to unseasonably cold waters.

ENVIRONMENT



In 2005, there were 27 named storms and one unnamed storm. In 2020, there were 30 named storms, a new record. The last named storm, a Category 5 storm, was?

- a. Vicky
- b. Zeke
- c. Iota
- d. Lambda

ENVIRONMENT

The oil spill appeared to be the largest since the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010. About 672,000 gallons leaked in two days when a pipeline fractured. Where?

- a. off the coast of Kuwait in the Persian Gulf
- b. near Amherst, South Dakota
- c. in the Gulf of Mexico, southeast of Venice, Louisiana
- d. off the coast of Trinidad and Tobago in the Atlantic Ocean

SOME PROBLEM QUESTIONS

POLITICS

Why did the Democratic National Committee suspend Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign's access to the DNC voter database?

- a. Campaign workers took advantage of a software error to access Hillary Clinton's confidential voter information.
- b. Campaign workers broke into Hillary Clinton's headquarters to install listening devices.
- c. Campaign workers embedded themselves on Donald Trump's staff to get inside knowledge.
- d. Campaign workers hacked into it to get confidential data on other candidates.

POLITICS

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ANSWER KEY SAID D WAS CORRECT.

REGION 2016

POLITICS

Why did the Democratic National Committee suspend Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign's access to the DNC voter database?

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/18/politics/bernie-sanders-campaign-dnc-suspension/>

D is wrong. A is correct. The information wasn't on other candidates anyway. It was on voters.

We sent out a correction the day of Region. "On the CURRENT ISSUES answer key for the Region test, it has been brought to our attention and confirmed that the answer key for #14 is incorrect. #14--A is the correct answer, not D."

CIVIL RIGHTS

In a red state known for limiting civil rights protections for LGBT people and regulating who uses which public bathrooms, which candidate for North Carolina governor claimed victory on election night although the election was too close to call even a week after the election?

- a. Republican Roy Cooper
- b. Democrat Pat McCrory
- c. Libertarian Lon Cecil
- d. Republican Robert Brawley

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Roy Cooper is the 75th governor of North Carolina since 2017. A member of the **Democratic Party**, he served as the 49th attorney general of North Carolina from 2001 to 2016.

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.

ANSWER SHEET

LETTER corresponding to the **best response** to each question in the
response to the essay on the paper provided. The essay is worth as

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 10. _____ | 33. _____ |
| 14. _____ | 34. _____ |
| 15. _____ | 35. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 36. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 37. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 38. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 39. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 40. _____ |

CORRECT RESPONSE

"As required by the Constitution, who presided over the second impeachment trial of former U.S. President Donald Trump?"

- a. the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, John Roberts
- b. the vice president, Kamala Harris
- c. a senator, Patrick Leahy, D-Vermont, the president pro tempore of the Senate
- d. the speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, D-California

We have a question regarding #37 on the Current Events test.

Choice C is the correct answer on the key.

However, according to the Constitution, the chief justice is supposed to preside over it, which is choice A.

Do we accept both A and C?

CORRECT RESPONSE



"Facing multiple crises including twin hurricanes, earthquakes, the island's debt crisis, corruption scandals and the pandemic, Pedro Pierluisi was sworn in as governor of what country Jan. 2?"

- a. Guam
- b. American Samoa
- c. U.S. Virgin Islands
- d. Puerto Rico

CORRECT RESPONSE



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- d. **Puerto Rico**

CORRECT RESPONSE

#30- The question asks about the governor of what country, and all of the answer choices are not countries, but territories.

"Facing multiple crises including twin hurricanes, earthquakes, the island's debt crisis, corruption scandals and the pandemic, Pedro Pierluisi was sworn in as governor of what country Jan. 2?"

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- c. U.S. Virgin Islands
- d. **Puerto Rico**

POLITICS

Puerto Rico Swears In A Governor Inherits Multiple Crises

January 2, 2021 - 2:24 PM ET



ADRIAN LLORIDO



Pedro Pierluisi takes office as governor amid the island's ongoing efforts to clean up coronavirus's damage.

[EXCERPTS](#)
[PHOTOS](#)
[VIDEO](#)

Pedro Pierluisi was sworn in as Puerto Rico's 12th elected governor, promising to turn the page on years of social and political turmoil and to restore trust in a government whose credibility was damaged by its response to a string of recent crises.

Speaking from the steps of the island's Capitol, the new governor addressed a crowd of a few hundred invited guests who wore face coverings and were spaced out as a precaution against the coronavirus.

Pierluisi, 61, was previously the island's attorney general and a delegate to the U.S. Congress. His swearing-in on Saturday follows his previous attempts to claim the governorship, first in 2016, when

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Introduction

Background

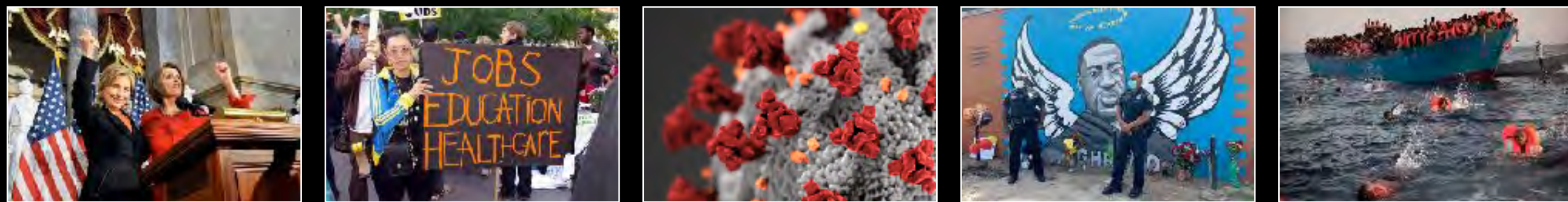
FEEDBACK

What disturbed me most in CI&E is that there was a lot of parody among the competitor's scores before the essay was judged. This overweights the importance of the essay at state. I would suggest that the way to make the test less subjective at region and state is to make it harder. The way to fix the problem is to add more questions at regional and even more at state. Say, an increase of five or even better 10 at each level should do it.

**JONATHAN ROBERTSON
SUDAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

ANY RATIOS?

Business • International • National • Science • Texas



No. I play it by ear depending on news flow. In an election year, you can expect a lot of national news. And, you might expect to see questions regarding Texas implications to a national story or event.

ANY RATIOS?

Business • International • National • Science • Texas

	Number Of Questions		
	2021	2022	2023
T=Texas	5	1	3
N=National	21	17	14
I=International	9	8	7
B=Business	2	7	10
S=Science	3	7	6

ANY RATIOS?

Business • International • National • Science • Texas

	Percentage Of Wrong Answers		
	2021	2022	2023
T=Texas	3%	0%	1%
N=National	15%	15%	4%
I=International	9%	8%	2%
B=Business	2%	4%	1%
S=Science	4%	8%	10%

ANYTHING OFF LIMITS? NO!

Bids to ban critical race theory have come in every state except one, database shows

Kelly Powers USA TODAY NETWORK

Published 5:05 a.m. ET April 17, 2023 | Updated 7:53 a.m. ET April 17, 2023



[Subscribe](#) to hear this story



From the military to classrooms: Find out why critical race theory is causing a divide

From Donald Trump to Barack Obama, critical race theory has become a talking point. Find out why it's getting banned in classrooms across dozens of states. *Just the FAQs, USA TODAY*

IMPORTANT TOPICS

Affirmative Action	Drug legalization	Me Too movement	Socialism
Affordable Care Act	Early voting	Middle East relations	Solar power
Alt-right	Eating disorders	Minimum wage	Standardized testing
Alternative medicine	Education policy	Misinformation	Stem cells
America's global influence	Election	Net neutrality	Stimulus packages
Antifa	Equal Rights Amendment	Nuclear energy	Supreme Court confirmation
Artificial intelligence	Executive orders	Offshore drilling	Sweatshops
Assisted suicide	Extremism	Oil supply	Syrian civil war
Atheism	Factory farming	Organic food	Texas budget
Bilingual education	Foreign aid	Outsourcing	Title IX
Biofuels	Fracking	Pandemic	Trade deficit
Black Lives Matter	Freedom of speech	Paying college athletes	Trade tariffs
Border security	General Data Protection	Police reform	Transgender rights
Capital punishment	Regulation	Political activism	Urban agriculture
Censorship	Genetic engineering	Prescription drug addiction	Vaccines
Charter schools	Gerrymandering	Racial profiling	Vaping
Childhood obesity	Green New Deal	Ransomware	Violence in the media
Civil rights	Hacking	Reparations	Voter fraud
Climate change	Hate speech	Russian hacking	Voting laws
Coronavirus	Health insurance	Sanctuary city	War
Critical race theory	Human trafficking	Screen addiction	White nationalism
Cryptocurrency	Immigration	Self-driving cars	Wildfires
Cyber bullying	International violence	Sex education	Wind power
Cybersecurity	Israel Palestine relations	Smart speakers	Women's rights
DACA	Labor unions	Social security	Zero tolerance policies

THE ESSAY



The essay matters.

THE ESSAY

The U.S. economy, the world's third-largest economy, is strong. The Gross Domestic Product is growing at about 2.6 percent per year. Unemployment was only 3.8 percent in February. Inflation is only 2.2 percent. While the national debt is about \$22 trillion, 113 percent of GDP, most economists say that is only unhealthy for short periods.

Not all other countries have economies that are that healthy.

Pick three other countries – not the United States – and **discuss** economic problems they have been having so far this academic year and the sociopolitical situations surrounding them.

THE ESSAY

As Robert Glazer said in an April 1, 2020 *Forbes* article, "With little warning, COVID-19 is changing everything about our lives – changes that are universal across generation. Although each generation will be affected differently, all will be forced to acclimate to a new normal."

And a Pew Research poll released March 30, 2020 showed that nearly 44% of U.S. adults say their life has changed in a major way.

COVID-19 has changed our way of life. First, **discuss** how the novel coronavirus has changed the way we work, play and learn. Second, include some of the major individuals and companies involved in this new, but temporary, normal. Finally, what steps do officials say will be required to get us back to work, play and school?

THE ESSAY



RUBRIC

for Social Studies and CI&E essays

Contestant Number: _____

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 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, social, political, economic, cultural and scientific. 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 11-15 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 6-10 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 0-5 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 20 points)

OBJECTIVE SCORE _____
(score from the objective portion of the test)

OVERALL SCORE _____
(add essay score to objective score)

THE ESSAY

VERBS

To discuss

To examine

To review

To compare / to contrast

To explore

To survey

To dig into

To canvass

To analyze

To have a look

To look into

FROM THE CONSTITUTION

REPRESENTATION.

(1) **Individual Competition.** Each participant high school may enter as many as four individuals in the district meet, all of whom may place. In districts with more than eight schools, district executive committees may elect to limit entries to three.

(2) **Team Competition.** The individuals entered at district constitute the team. A team shall have a minimum of three contestants compete in order to participate in the team competition.

The **team score** is determined by adding the highest three individual scores in the objective portion of the contest. All four members of the winning team will advance to the next higher level of competition.

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	9	37
JUAN	28	10	38
JAYDEN	26	8	34
SOPHIA	26	5	31
NICOLE	25	3	28
HILARY	24	9	33

ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING

FINAL PLACES

NAME	OBJECTIVE	ESSAY	TOTAL	PLACE
BRITNEY	32	5	37	4th
LINDSEY	30	7	37	3rd
TARA	28	9	37	2nd
JUAN	28	10	38	1st
JAYDEN	26	8	34	5th
SOPHIA	26	5	31	
NICOLE	25	3	28	
HILARY	24	9	33	6th

ABOUT INDIVIDUAL SCORING

FINAL PLACES

NAME	OBJECTIVE	ESSAY	TOTAL	PLACE
BRITNEY	32	5	37	4th
LINDSEY	30	7	37	3rd
TARA	28	9	37	2nd
JUAN	28	10	38	1st
JAYDEN	26	8	34	5th
SOPHIA	26	5	31	
NICOLE	25	3	28	
HILARY	24	9	33	6th

ABOUT TEAM SCORING

- Top three-member team determined **by objective scores only**.
- For example, TEAM A:
 - Kevin – 29
 - Brad – 26
 - Jake – 25
 - Matt – 21 (lowest score doesn't count)
 - Team score: 80

WHAT ABOUT THE WILD CARD?

- Best **second place** team among the eight districts in a region goes to region.
- Best **second place** team among the four regions in the state qualifies to the State Meet.

8 DISTRICTS PER REGION

4 REGIONS IN THE STATE

- District 1 – 78
 - District 2 – 72
 - District 3 – 69
 - District 4 – 83
 - District 5 – 66
 - District 6 – 81
 - District 7 – 70
 - District 8 – 68
- Region 1 – 81
 - Region 2 – 77
 - Region 3 – 72
 - Region 4 – 83

WHAT IF THERE'S A TIE? FOURTH TEAM MEMBER'S SCORE WILL BREAK TIE.

- District 1 – 78
- District 2 – 72
- District 3 – 69
- District 4 – 83
- District 5 – 66
- District 6 – 83
- District 7 – 70
- District 8 – 68

District 4 (83)

Jennifer - 30

Courtney - 27

David - 26

Matthew - 25

District 6 (83)

Tony - 32

Carmela - 28

Meadow - 23

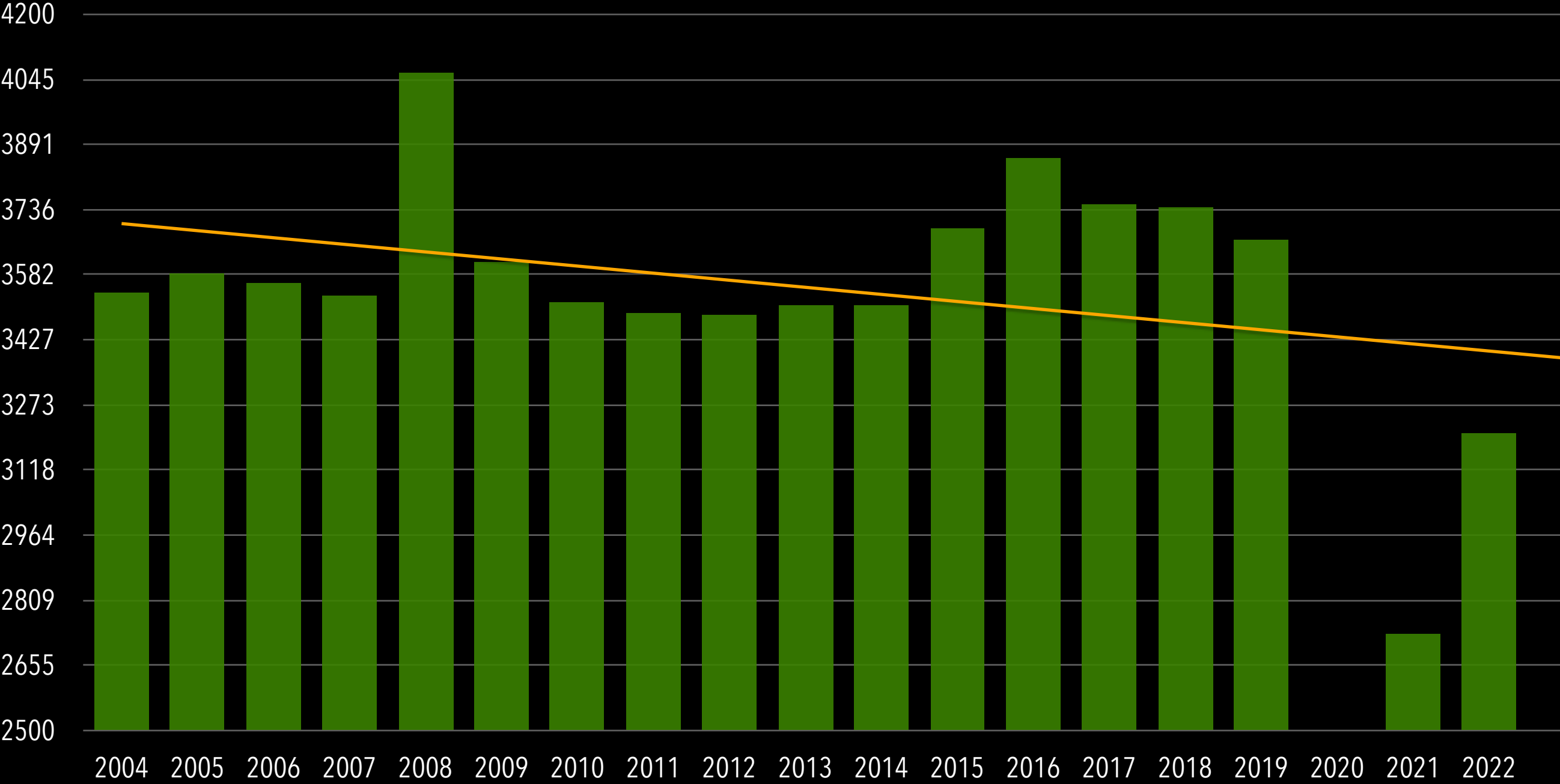
A.J. - 19

BUT WHAT IF...

Can a member of a team who did not place first, second or third at district but who advanced with the team then places first, second or third as an individual at region advance as an individual?

Yes.

THE NUMBERS: DISTRICT



STATE PARTICIPATION

2023 – 155

2022 – 160

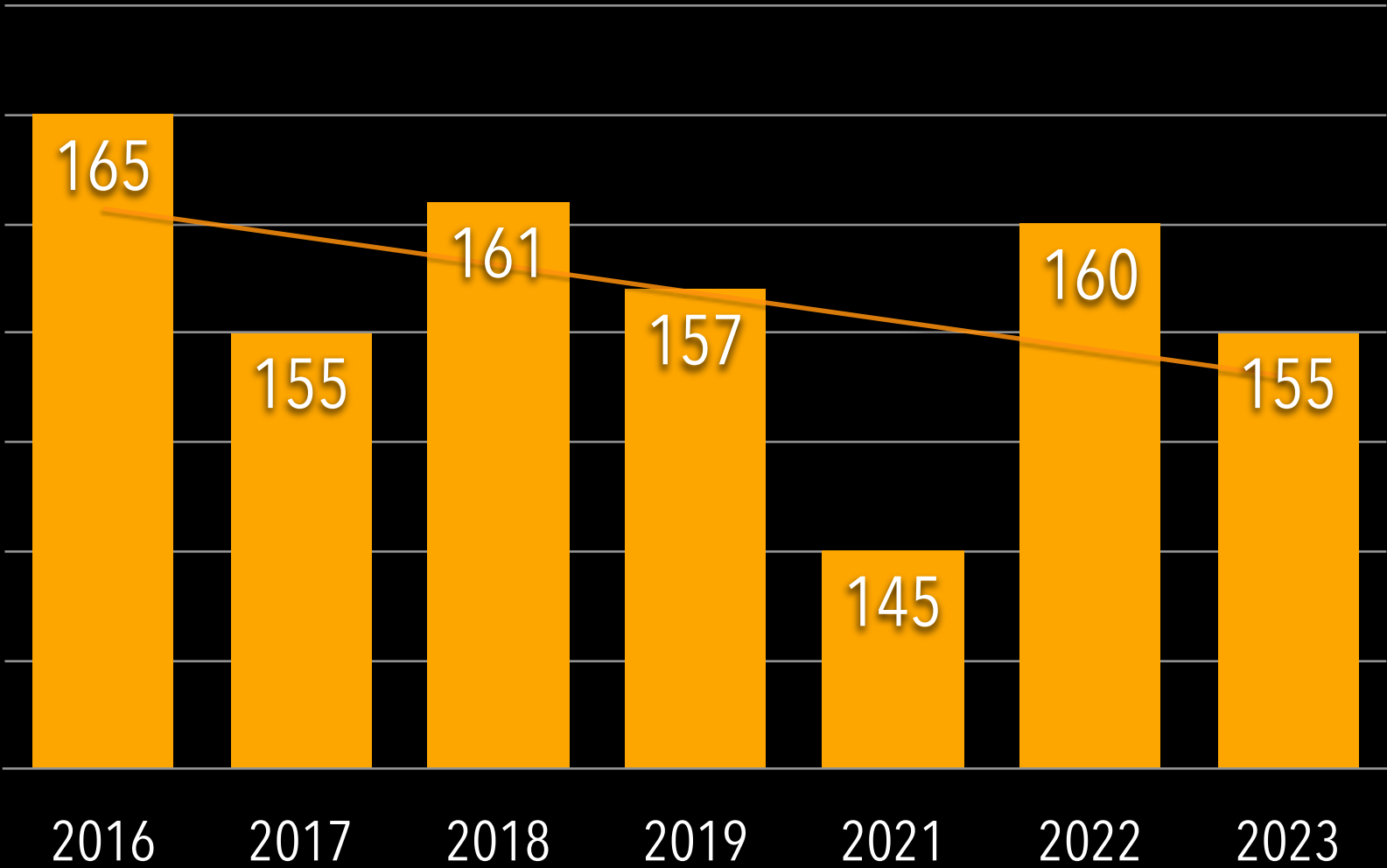
2021 – 145

2019 – 157

2018 – 161

2017 – 155

2016 – 165



THE NUMBERS: STATE 2023

Objective score average | 28.8

(2022: 25.82) (2021: 25.4) (2019: 25.2) (2018: 27.5)

(2017: 31.3) (2016: 27.6) (2015: 32.3)

High | 38

Low | 14

Essay score average | 5.7

(2022: 6.5) (2021: 5.9) (2019: 5.7) (2018: 6.3)

(2017: 5.2) (2016: 4.7) (2015: 5.6)

High | 10 (n=1)

Low | 2 (n=2)

THE NUMBERS: STATE 2023

	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	Average
Contestants	22	27	28	28	25	25	25.8
High Overall	43	42	45	42	46	44	43.7
High Objective	34	36	36	36	38	37	36.2
Low Objective	14	17	21	19	18	27	19.3
High Essay	9	9	9	7	10	8	8.7
Low Essay	3	4	2	2	4	4	3.2

EASIEST QUESTION

18. China will have 1.4257 billion people by the middle of this year, according to U.N. projections. What country will surpass that by 2.9 million people, making it, not China, the world's most populous country?

- a. **India**
- b. Brazil
- c. Indonesia
- d. Pakistan

MISSED BY 0% OF STUDENTS
STATE 2023

EASIEST QUESTION

19. After severing ties with the rapper Ye over antisemitic comments, Adidas was left with unsold merchandise worth \$1.3 billion. What kind of merchandise?

- a. **Sneakers**
- b. Evening wear
- c. Spandex (elastane)
- d. Brightly colored trefoil jackets

MISSED BY 0% OF STUDENTS
STATE 2023

MOST MISSED QUESTION

25. Under the current voting system, 90 counties in Texas use countywide voting centers on Election Day. SB990 – if approved by the state House – would eliminate countywide voting centers on Election Day. Where would people vote?

- a. at one central location approved by the county judge
- b. at an assigned precinct, typically in their neighborhood**
- c. at one central location approved by the Texas legislature
- d. at the office of the county judge with approved observers watching all interactions

MISSED BY 25% OF STUDENTS
STATE 2023

MOST MISSED QUESTION

35. U.N. member states finally agreed in March on a treaty to protect what area against the loss of wildlife?


- a. the moon
- b. the area inside the Arctic Circle
- c. the high seas**
- d. Antarctica

MISSED BY 25% OF STUDENTS
STATE 2023

PRACTICE

When Democratic legislators walked out Sunday night, it was clear that SB7 wouldn't pass. What was it about?

19



▲ elections and voter access

◆ expanding gun rights

● restricting abortion

■ bail reform

Weekly News Quiz for Students: Covid Decline, Viral Video, Giant Iceberg

Compiled by John Cota and Jeremy Eagle May 28, 2020



This is our final Weekly News Quiz for Students for the 2020-21 school year. Look for our Summer News Quiz in August.



Image courtesy: Timeline News Group

Above is an image related to one of the news stories we followed this past week. Do you know what it shows? At the bottom of this quiz, you'll find the answer.

Have you been paying attention to the news recently? See how many of these 10 questions you can get right.

1 of 10



Image courtesy: The New York Times

A sharply divided House voted on May 19 to create an independent commission to investigate the _____, overcoming opposition from Republicans determined to stop it.

Capitol assault on Jan. 6

Image courtesy: The New York Times

A sharply divided House voted on May 19 to create an independent commission to investigate the _____, overcoming opposition from Republicans determined to stop it.

Capitol assault on Jan. 6

foreign interference in elections

impact of human activity on climate change

racial disparities in the economy

2 of 10



Image courtesy: The New York Times

On May 20, after more than _____ days of fighting that has taken more than 200 lives and inspired protests and diplomatic efforts around the world, Israel and Hamas agreed to a cease-fire, officials on both sides said.

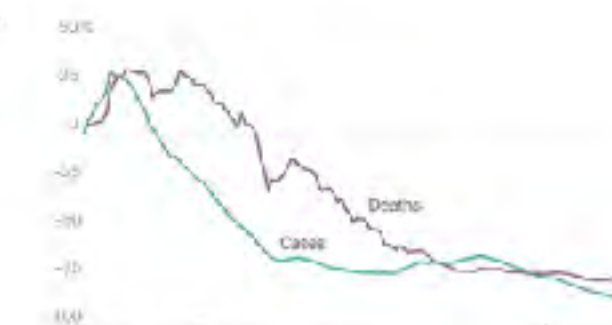
three

10

25

100

3 of 10



U.S. (The New York Times) Sources: John and Frank Smith (applied statistics)

Last week, the United States reported the lowest number of new Covid-19 cases since _____.

summer 2020

November 2020

January 2021

PRACTICE

SLATE QUIZ

June 22, 2021

Question 2 of 12

Who presented the Bush administration's case for war in an address to the United Nations Security Council?

Condoleezza Rice

Dick Cheney

George Tenet

Colin Powell

Answer quickly to earn more points!

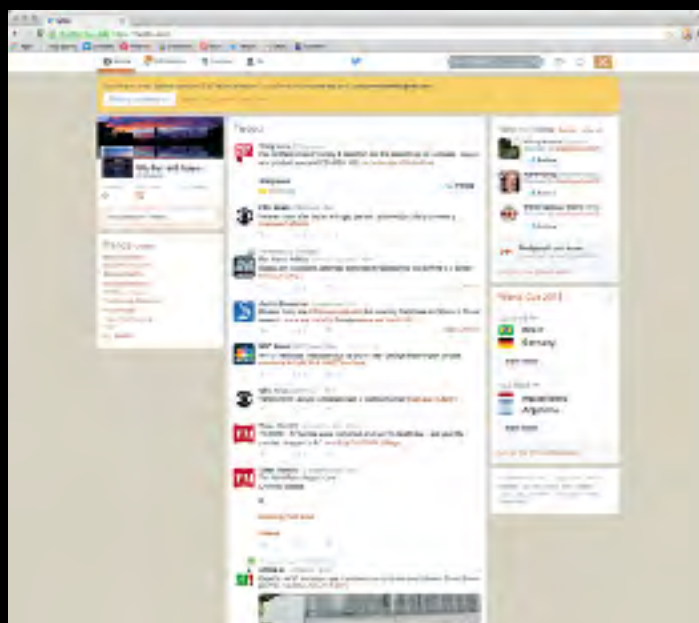
46 coins

Quiz Template by Chris Kirk and Andrew Morgan. Report a bug.

FOLLOW CI&E



Texas UIL Current Issues and Events



@uilciande #uilciande

6:49



Tweet



UIL Current Issues
@uilciande

Packed house and they all cl
@uiltexas Current Issues and
@UTAustin



8:12 AM · 5/18/23 from Earth · 656

View Tweet activity

3 Retweets 23 Likes



Show more re



Add another Tweet



Kelly Gordon
@KellyKgordon

@uilciande

What a ride! Thanks Dr. Wilson!



5:37 PM · 5/18/23 from Earth · View

1 Like



UIL Current Issues @uilciande · 6m

Strong world!

Tweet

Retweeted

ad Biggers
BiggersBrad

leyHSUIL legend @QuintonM2020
th proctoring and scoring both Social
nd Current Events at the UIL State
e Meet over the last two days. Great to
and Hook 'Em! @uilciande



Meet your reply







UIL Current Issues
@uilciande

Congratulations to Alex Yount of Dripping Springs High School. The only person to score a perfect 40 in the CI&E Take-Home competition. Congratulations.

[@OneTigerNation](#) [@dsisd](#) uiltexas.org/files/academic...



Academics At-Home Experience

Shared Scores - CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS

Conf	School	Student Name	Score
5A	Bryan Adams High School	Carmen Hernandez	31
5A	Bryan Adams High School	Melanie Peraza	31
5A	Bryan Adams High School	Jordan Young	25
5A	Clint ISD Early College Academy	Brittany Rodriguez	29
5A	Clint ISD Early College Academy	Andrea Sanchez	33
5A	Clint ISD Early College Academy	Jose Vega	15
5A	Dripping Springs High School	Melissa Richardson	23
5A	Dripping Springs High School	Alex Yount	40
5A	Ennis High School	Mason Gilb	29
5A	Ennis High School	Samantha Webster	21
5A	Infinity Early College High School	Sergio Martinez-Ortiz	27
5A	Infinity Early College High School	Vinay Pillai	27
5A	Infinity Early College High School	Adrianna Toledo	25

12:21 PM · May 21, 2020 · [Twitter Web App](#)

1 Retweet 15 Likes





kade
@KadeMims

Replying to @uilciande



7:15



Tweet your reply



Twe



Christopher lee c
@Christo7502870

Replying to @uilciande

Decatur High School
there! EFND!



9:43 PM · 4/13/19 · Twitter

2 Likes



Amy Hodge
@amyhodge77

Follow

11 years - 12 events - 5 schools - 3
ISDs - too many invitationals,
tournaments, medals, trophies & ribbons
to count - the most amazing coaches in
the state to help him along the way!
Today Andrew's UIL Academics journey
came to an end. I'm so proud of all he's
accomplished!



4:42 PM · 13 Apr 2019

1 Retweet 21 Likes



You, Emily, Andrew and 2 others



2



1



21



Tweet your reply

4:10



Nicolás Macr
@RealNicoFo

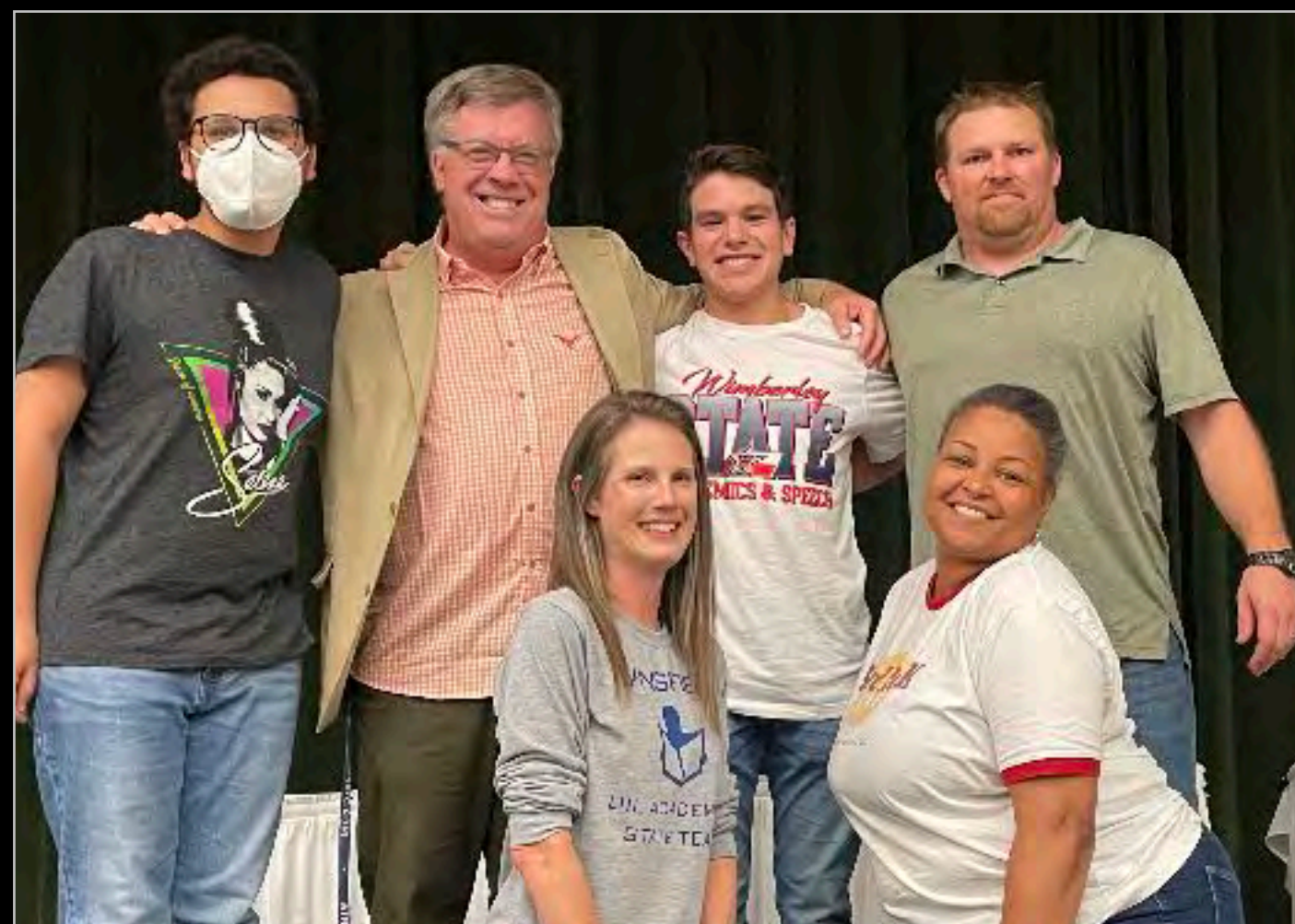
We just won 1st p
UIL Current Issue
state we go!!!
#UIL @uilciande



2:34 PM · 4/13/19 · Tw

1 Retweet 3 Likes







Love, Ch
 @MrAweso

Annual tea Austin. Ha @uilciande

6:17 PM - 5 May 2018

1 Retweet 12 Likes

Safin Rouf and Adarr

Stubblefield_SHS
 @stubblefieldELA

Q: How to start a fight i
 A: mix up teams and as
 @quizlet to prepare for
 year!

2:59 PM - 15 Ma

UIL Current I
 @uilciande

Just some of
 met yesterday
 some who ha
 win again this
 work.

5:17 AM - 5 May 2018

10 Retweets 41 Likes

Jeremy Dickerson
 @Jdickerson27

Follow

Current Issues and Events

2nd place team in Texas 4A

Thanks for the years of coaching @Skizalmc!

Also I got a great selfie with @bradleywilson09!

@cantonhs @CantonUIL @uilciande

6:39 PM - 4 May 2018 from Austin, TX

10 Retweets 43 Likes

grant tulloe, Cameron and Canton HS Counseling

Roy Rodriguez @MrRod4Edu · 11h
@uiltexas 2015 5A Current Issues Champion
Consolidated HS with @uilciande #uilsta20



The
@ui

RET
1

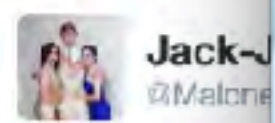
10:3

RETWEETS
5

★ Nancy J
14h: Wh
& coach
pic.twitter



Jack-Jack on Twitter
Twitter, Inc. [US]



@bradley



RETWEETS
3

FAVORITES
7

10:10 AM - 26 May 2015

Joshua Burcham on Twitter

Twitter, Inc. [US] https://twitter.com/Birdistheword41/status/60321657164163...

Search T Q

Joshua Burcham
@Birdistheword41

Follow

@bradleywilson09 is the coolest Current events director ever! #currentevents

RETWEETS 4 FAVORITES 7

10:10 AM - 23 May 2015

Reply to @Birdistheword41 @bradleywilson09

Trends

FIFA #Crign #QueensSpeech Priyanka Gandhi #HumpDay #5WordWeddingToast
Memorial Day Willie Walsh #houwx San Miguel

© 2015 Twitter About Help Ads Info



SPORTSMANSHIP

**Chad Smith**
@MrAwesome109

Follow

Not only are we champions but we also just set a record for score! @uilciande State champs! Obed -3rd Sam-4th



RETWEETS

14

LIKES

30

1:27 PM - 25 May 2016

Reply to @MrAwesome109

**Chelseaareli** · May
@MrAwesome109

Spencer Johns
@Volte_Johns

Follow

Victory belongs to the most persevering.
- Napoleon Bonaparte

4 years to State.
Sophomore - 4th Individual
Junior - 1st Team
Senior - 2nd Individual



8:14 PM · 4 May 2018

9 Retweets 60 Likes



**Rodrigo Estrada**
@RodrigoEstJr

Tweet

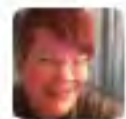
#UIL Academics Regional Meet domination! UIL Current Events Team 🏆 UIL Science 🏆 Top Score 🏆 UIL Social Studies 🏆 Champ 🏆 & Team 🏆

#StateBound 🇺🇸 @UILTexas



Tweet your reply

SPORTSMANSHIP



Rachael Cummings

@rcummings513

Follow

Tioga's Current Issues and Events won the 1A Texas State Championship! @uilciande



LIKE

1



9:07 PM - 21 Apr 2017



Amy Hodge

@amyhodge77

Follow

Way to go, Andrew! You worked hard for this 1st place! On to Region! #UILTexas @a_Plebeian01 @uilciande



LIKES

4



NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND THEIR ASSOCIATED WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA



- USA Today
- Wall Street Journal
- The New York Times
- The Washington Post

TEXAS METROPOLITAN NEWSPAPERS



- Dallas Morning News
- Houston Chronicle
- San Antonio Express-News
- Fort Worth Star-Telegram
- Austin American-Statesman

NEWS MAGAZINES



- The Week
- Time
- Newsweek
- Texas Monthly
- US News & World Report
- The Economist

RADIO, TELEVISION, INTERNET



- Texas Tribune
- National Public Radio
- PBS
- ABC, CBS, NBC
- CNN.com, MSNBC.com, foxnews.com

SOURCES





Version 8.0 September 2021 Edition – Combined Web, Podcast, and TV

Hyper-Fartisan Left

Skews Left

Middle

Skews Right

Hyper-Partisan Right

Most
Extreme

Fact Reporting

Mostly Analysis
OR Mix of Fact
Reporting and
Analysis

Analysis CR
High Variability
in Reliability

Opinion OR
High Variation in
Reliability

Selective, Incomplete, Unfair Persuasion, Propaganda, or Other Issues

Contains
Misleading Info

Contains
Inaccurate/
Fabricated Info

MORE

News Value and Reliability

637

LEFT

Bias

RIGHT

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BEFORE IT'S NEWS

STUDENT ACTIVITY CONFERENCES

Sept. 9 University of Texas Permian Basin (Odessa)

Sept. 23 University of Texas at Austin

Oct. 21 Prosper ISD (DFW area)

Nov. 11 Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

CONTEST DATES 2023-2024

Invitational A	Jan. 5 - Feb. 3
----------------	-----------------

Invitational B	Feb. 9 - March 9
----------------	------------------

District	April 1 - 6
----------	-------------

Region	April 26 - 27
--------	---------------

State	May 13 - 15
-------	-------------

CUT-OFF DATES 2023–2024

The contest will focus on a basic knowledge of current state, national and world events and issues. “Current events” are those that have occurred during the current school year so **any material after Aug. 14, 2023, is fair game for any exam**. However, the following cut-off dates may assist in studying for multiple-choice questions.

Invitational A	Aug. 14, 2023 - Dec. 6, 2023
----------------	------------------------------

Invitational B	Aug. 14, 2023 - Jan. 1, 2024
----------------	------------------------------

District	Sept. 18, 2023 - Feb. 14, 2024
----------	--------------------------------

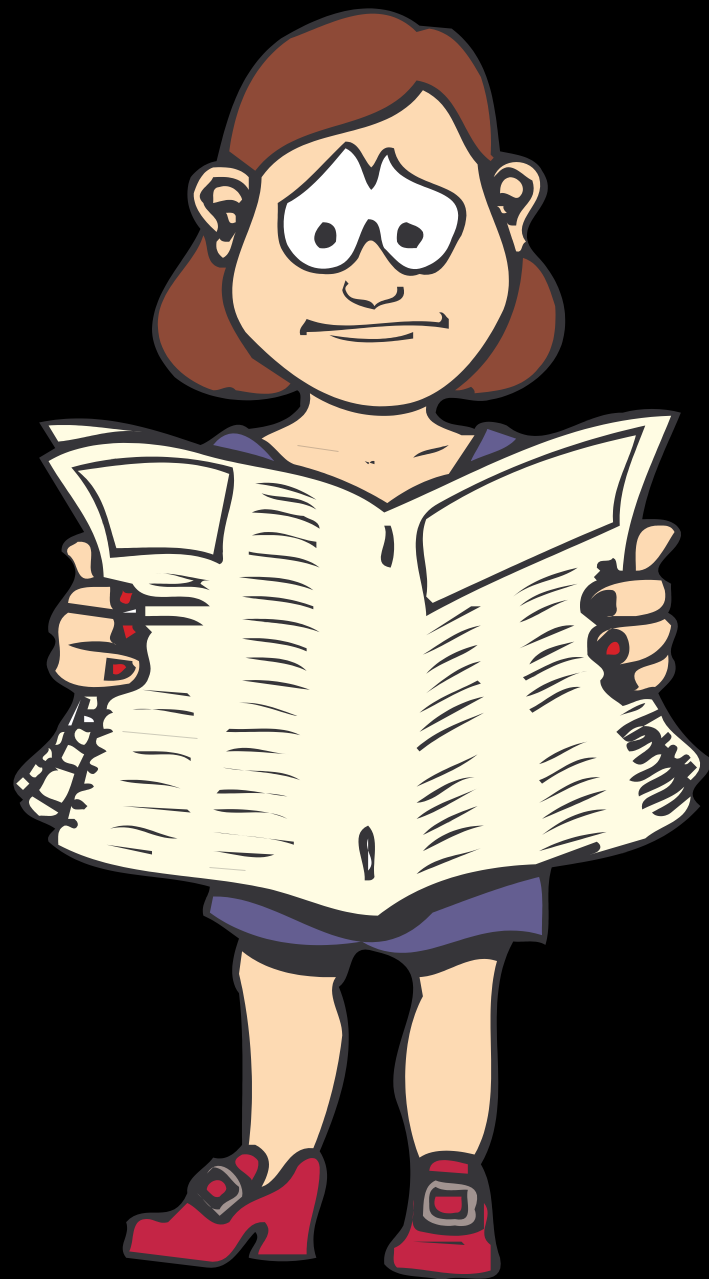
Region	Oct. 16, 2023 - March 26, 2024
--------	--------------------------------

State	Jan. 2, 2023 - May 13, 2024
-------	-----------------------------



GET STARTED NOW

- Organize your team
- Read *CI&E Contest Manual*
- Engage in social media
- Collect and store data
- Practice regularly
- Attend an invitational meet
- Practice writing and evaluating essays
- Have fun



APRIL LEAVENWORTH

"Sometimes when we see what's going on in the world around us, it can change our entire perspective on life. We might want to start volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, or with an animal rescue group. Knowing how and why our world is functioning the way it is **RIGHT NOW** makes us a lot more knowledgeable about how we might be able to change it for the future."

CONTACT ME



BRADLEY WILSON, PH.D.
bradleywilson08@gmail.com
@bradleywilson09

A wide-angle photograph of a grand legislative chamber, likely the U.S. House of Representatives. The room features a high, ornate ceiling with a grid of decorative panels and chandeliers. Large, multi-paned windows line the upper walls. The floor is filled with rows of wooden desks and chairs, where numerous people, many wearing face masks, are seated. Some individuals are looking towards the front of the room, while others are looking at laptops or papers. A balcony with additional seating is visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is formal and busy.

QUESTIONS?