



# BEFORE WE GET STARTED

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Lone Star College



Session 109





# **CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS**

**BRADLEY WILSON, PH.D. | CONTEST DIRECTOR**  
**2024-2025**



# WHY CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS



**Kelly Gordon**  
@KellyKgordon

@uilciande

What a ride! Thanks Dr. Wilson!



5:37 PM · 5/18/23 from Earth · View

1 Like



**Brad Biggers**  
@BiggersBrad

@WimberleyHSUIL legend @QuintonM2020 helped with proctoring and scoring both Social Studies and Current Events at the UIL State Academic Meet over the last two days. Great to see you Q and Hook 'Em! @uilciande



**Alexsa Cervantes**  
@CervantesAlexsa

Follow back

1ST PLACE 2A CURRENT EVENTS TEAM & 6TH PLACE INDIVIDUAL!!! @uilciande @uiltexas



UIL Current Issues and 3 others

11:14 PM · 5/15/24 From Earth · 5 Views

1 Repost 1 Like



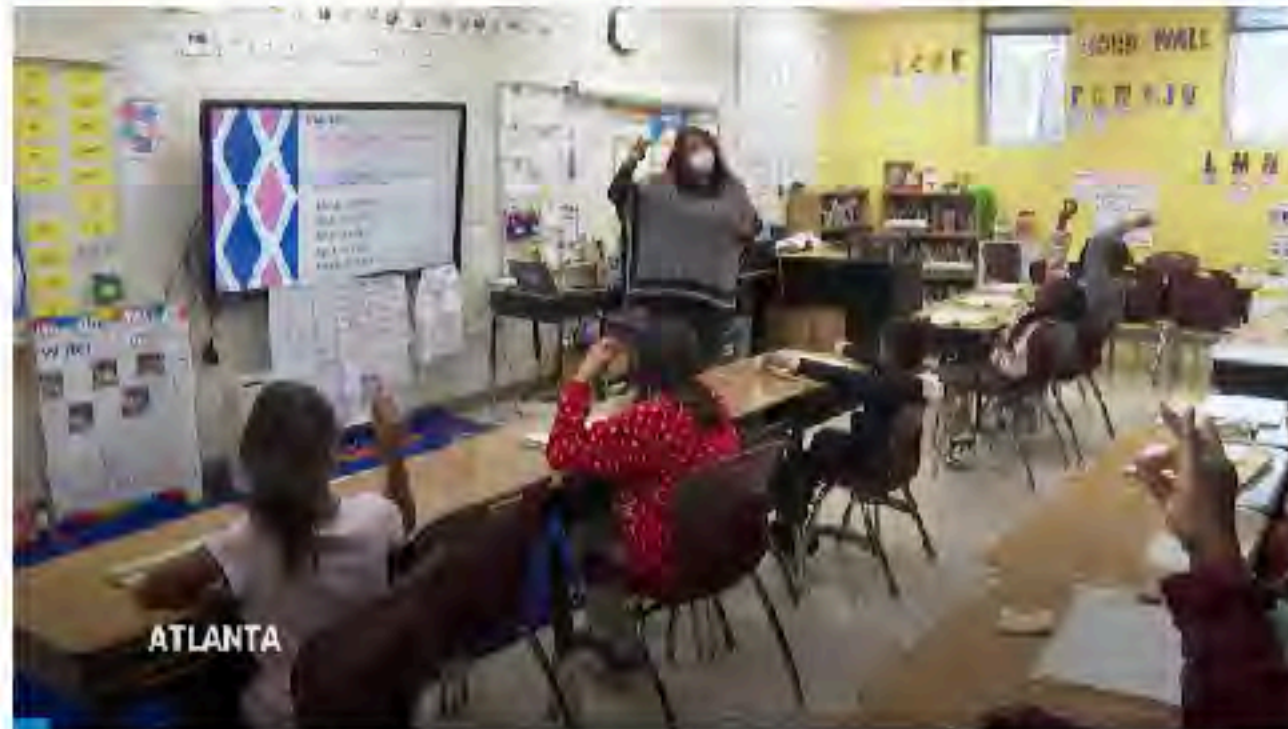


# US history, civics scores drop for nation's 8th graders. What experts say is to blame.



**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<sup>®</sup> indicating the lower end of the score range for each NAEP achievement level: *NAEP Basic*<sup>®</sup>, *NAEP Proficient*<sup>®</sup>, and *NAEP Advanced*<sup>®</sup>. 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



- Name the “fathers” of the Constitution.
- In front of what group does a federal impeachment trial begin?
- What constitutional amendment freed the slaves?
- Who is the president of the Senate?
- Who is the chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court?
- Who is the speaker of the House?
- How long is the term of a member of the U.S. House?



- Just 31% could identify **James Madison** as the Father of the Constitution
- Less than a third (32%) knew that an **impeachment trial** takes place before the Senate
- 28% knew that the **13th Amendment** freed slaves
- 27% could identify Kamala Harris as the **president of the Senate** (28% incorrectly said Joe Biden)
- 37% knew John Roberts is the **chief justice of the Supreme Court**
- 35% knew Mike Johnson is the **speaker of the House**.
- 60% of students failed to identify the **length of congressional terms**

## AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE GAP

What is the only country that borders the United Kingdom?

Ireland

Ninety percent of the Earth's population lives in which hemisphere?

Northern

In which country would you find the city of Dresden?

Germany

What is the official currency of India?

Rupee



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 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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FOR FIRST-TIME  
HOMEBUYING

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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



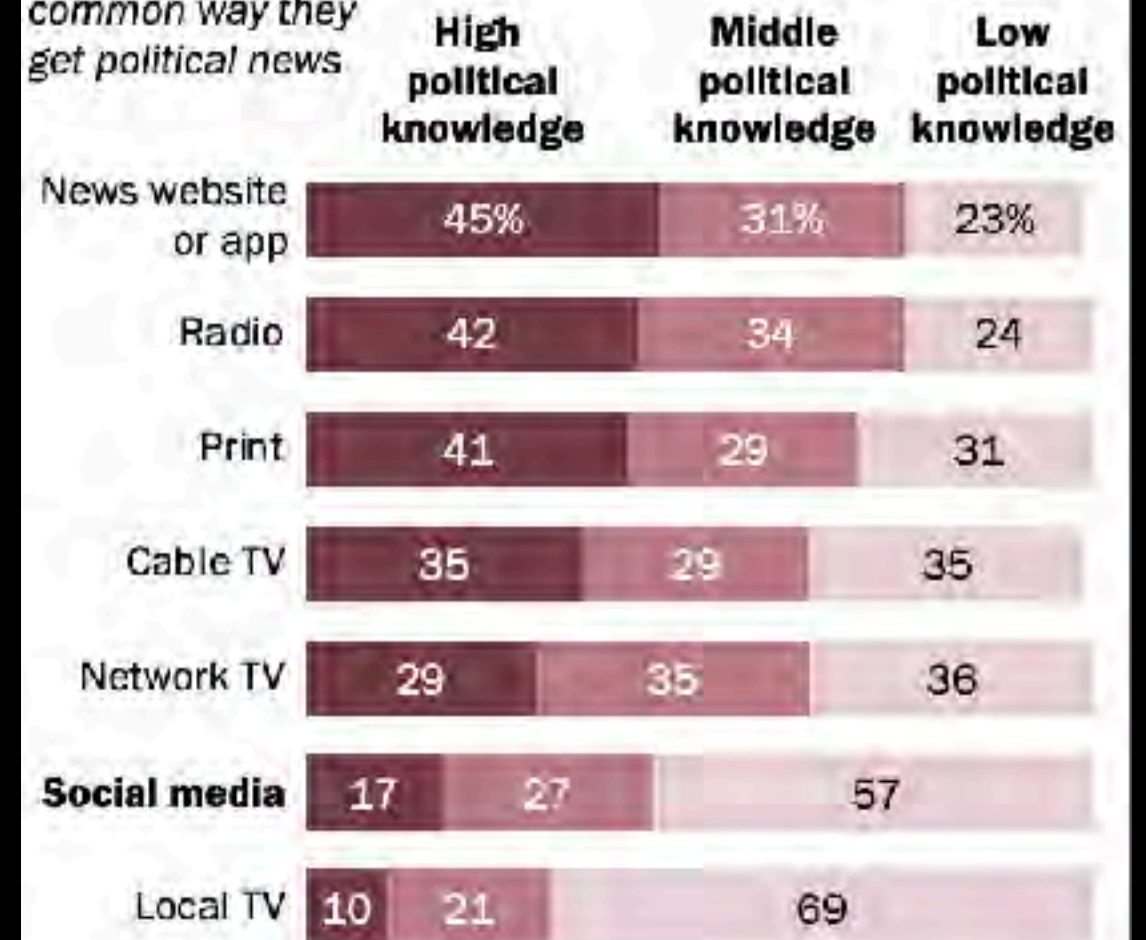
## AMERICA'S KNOWLEDGE CRISIS

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.

# ABOUT THE CONTEST



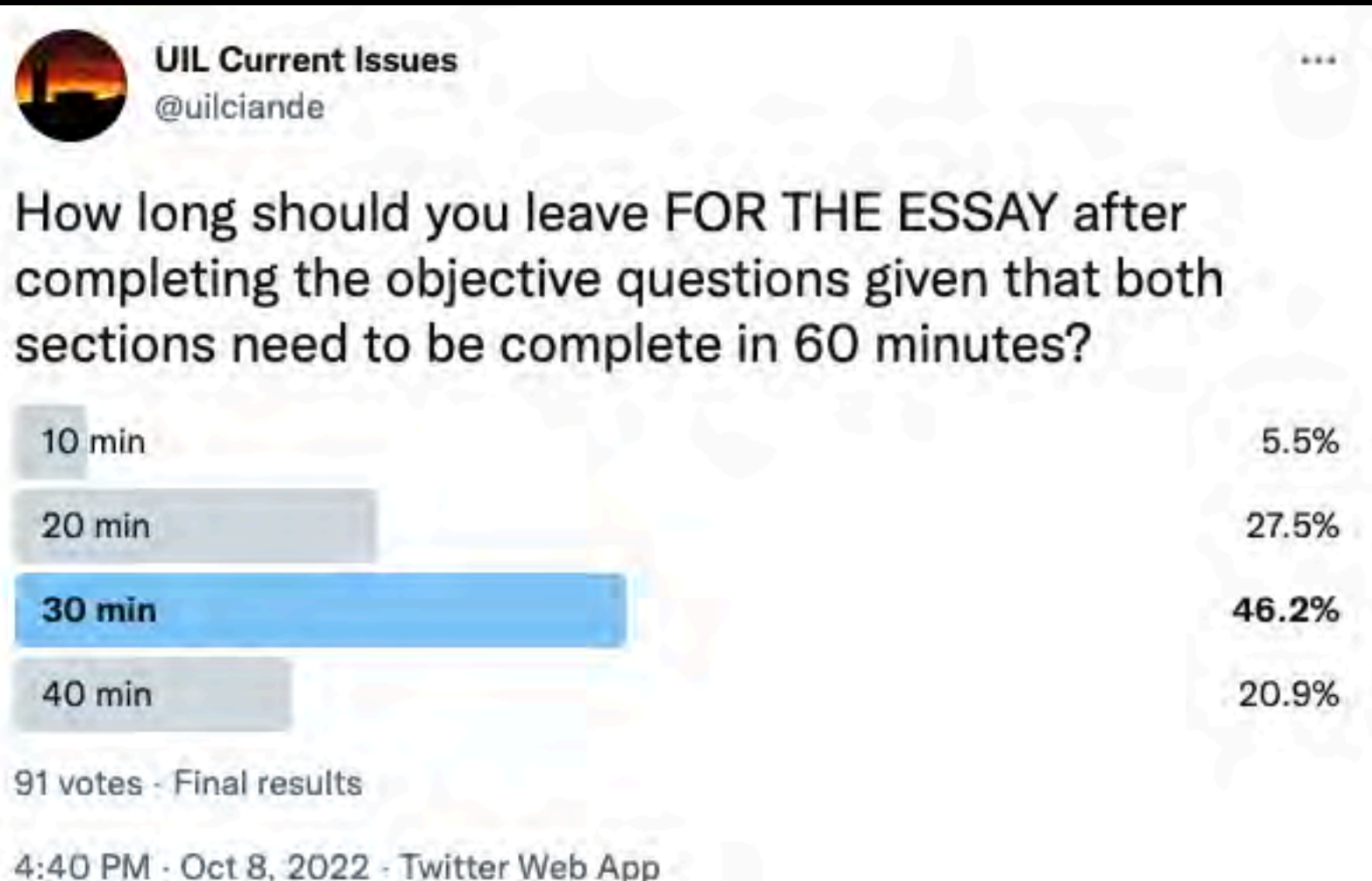
# ABOUT THE CONTEST



- 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

# FORM OF THE TEST



Will  
@willscoggins06

Follow back

First place 3A team in the State!!! @uilciande  
@bradleywilson09 #uilstate



Michele  
@redbirdblue29

Follow back

Dr. Wilson @bradleywilson09 is a household name with our family! We love the Current Issues and Events competition! @uiltexas @uilciande #UILState @benscoggins09 @willscoggins06 Way to go! State Champions!



abbey  
@abbey\_thelen

Follow back

finally met the man behind the test after 4 years of taking them

@bradleywilson09 @uilciande

ALSO @YoyoJiang25 MEDALED !! 🥳



# WHO QUESTION



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



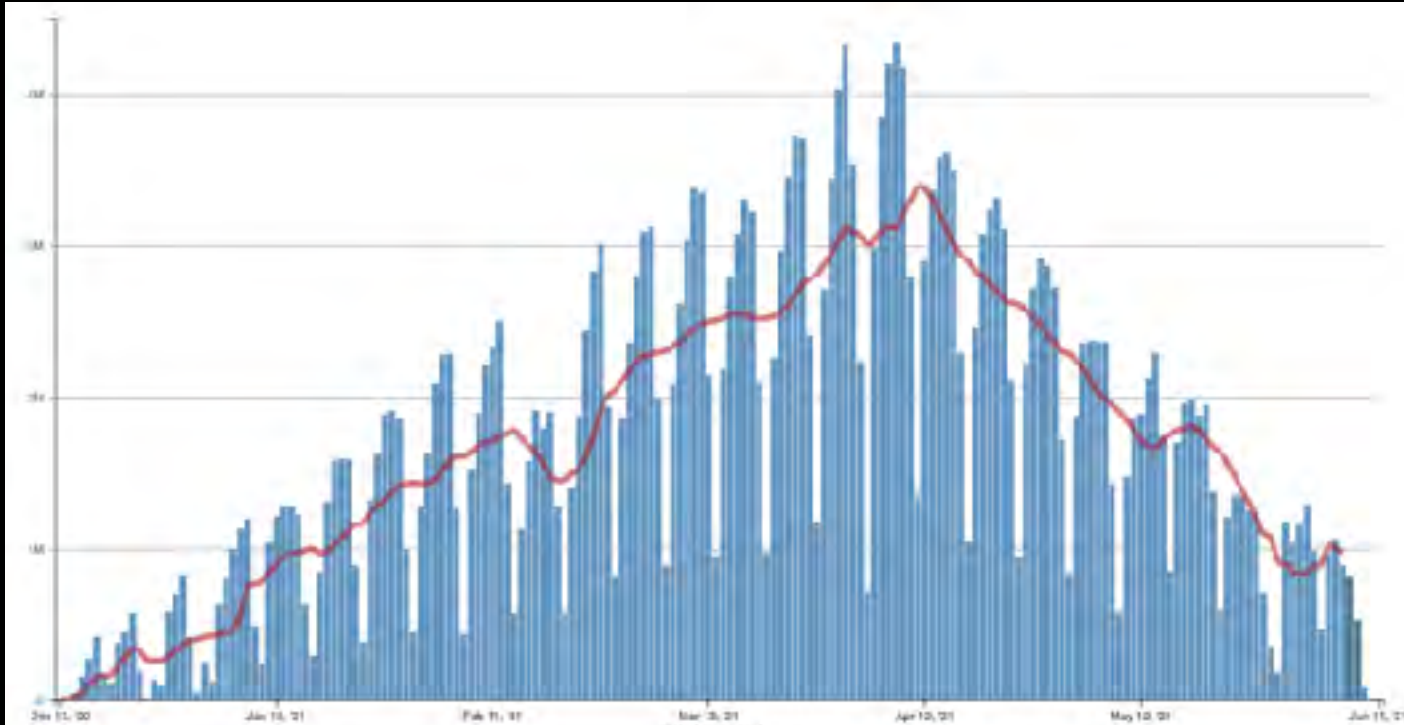
# WHO QUESTION



**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



**Which Texas political leader was impeached over allegations of misconduct that included bribery and abuse of office, removed from office but ultimately acquitted on all charges?**

- 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**

# WHICH QUESTION



## 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.

# 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**



# WHY QUESTION



**Eagle Pass Mayor Rolando Salinas declared a state of emergency in his city of 30,000 people. Why?**

- a. A sudden outbreak of a new strain of COVID-19
- b. Congress failed to pass a funding stop-gap measure
- c. The drought and record heat, the hottest on record
- d. **5,000 migrants crossed over the border into the city from Mexico**

# WHY QUESTION



**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.

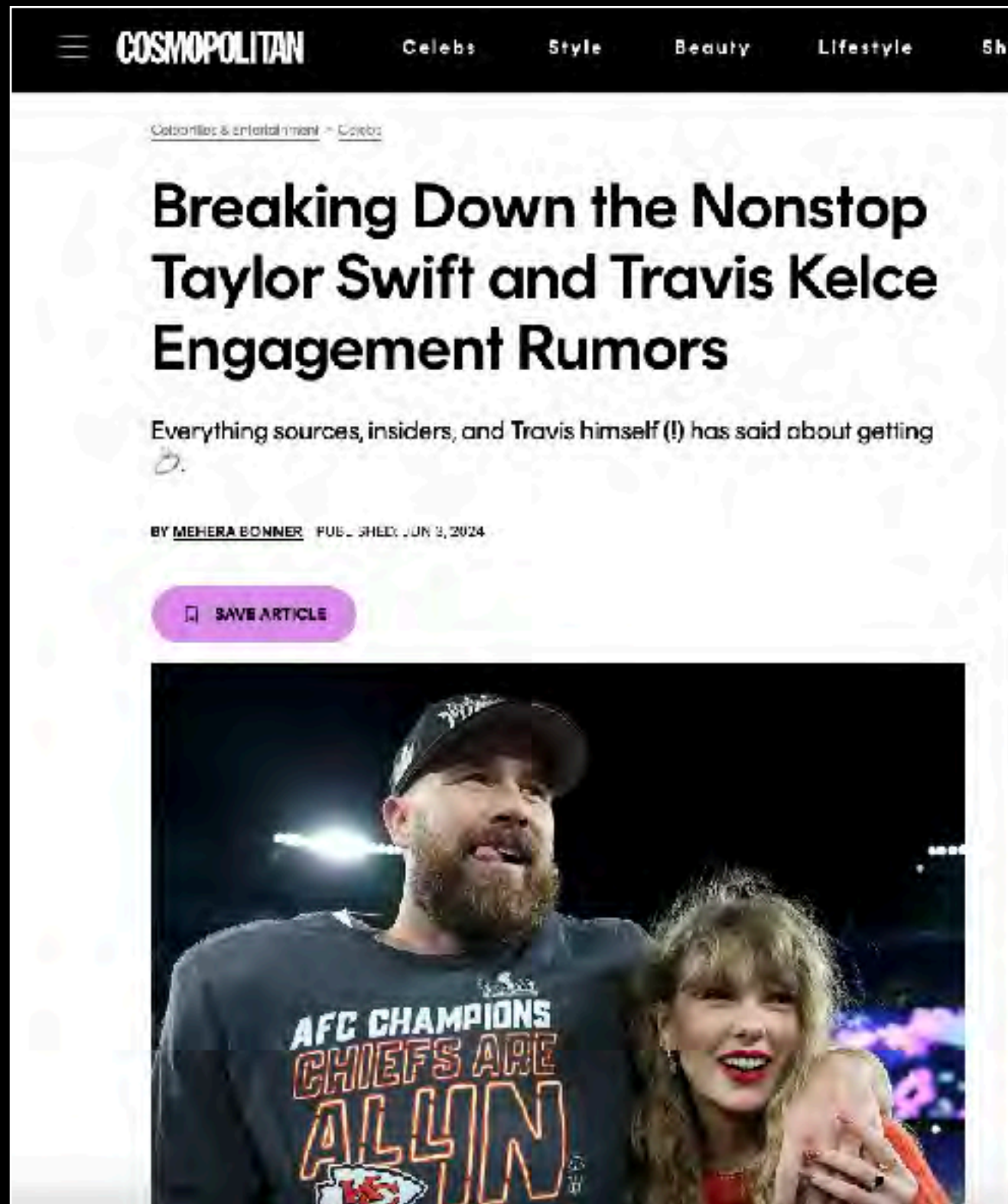
# NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS

**To whom is Taylor Swift engaged?**

- a. Joe Alwyn
- b. Benjamin Millepied
- c. Matty Healy
- d. Travis Kelce



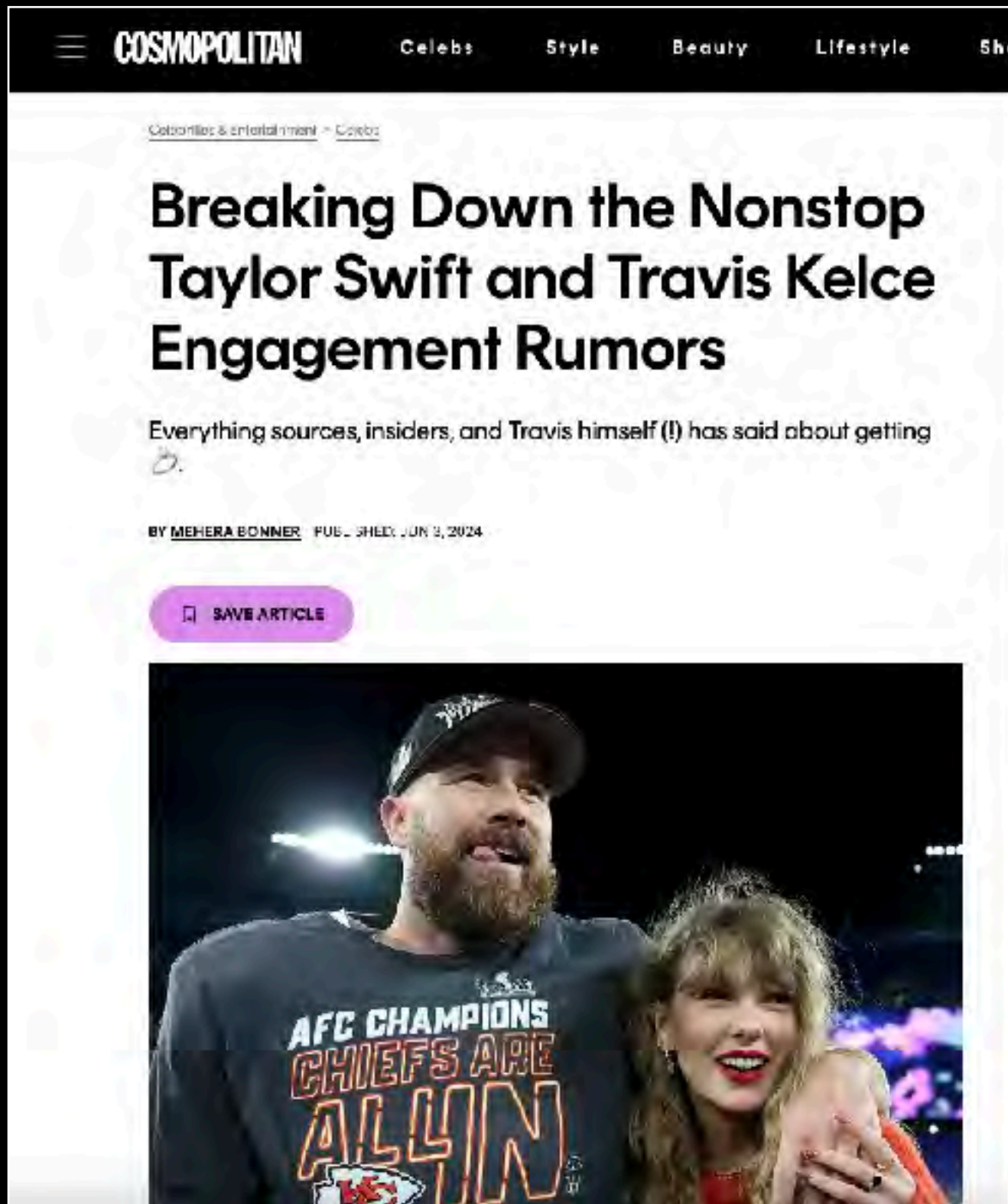
# NO CELEBRITY QUESTIONS



**Who cares?**

Is she even divorced yet? Dave Portnoy thinks Travis Kelce will propose "within six months" after the NFL star joined her on stage for an Eras Tour.

# 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



# BUSINESS QUESTIONS



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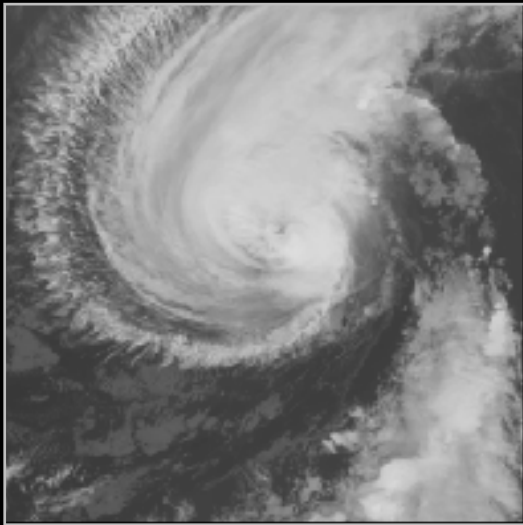
# BUSINESS QUESTIONS

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.

# SCIENCE QUESTION



**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.



# SCIENCE QUESTION



**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

# SCIENCE QUESTION

**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

STATE 2017  
ONLY 11% GOT IT RIGHT

# NO IMPOSSIBLE STUFF



**How far away from Earth is Voyager 1?**

- a. 116.883757 astronomical units
- b. 24,217,465,274 kilometers**
- c. 26 hours and 24 minutes and 20.7 seconds, light time
- d. 51,048,035,270 miles

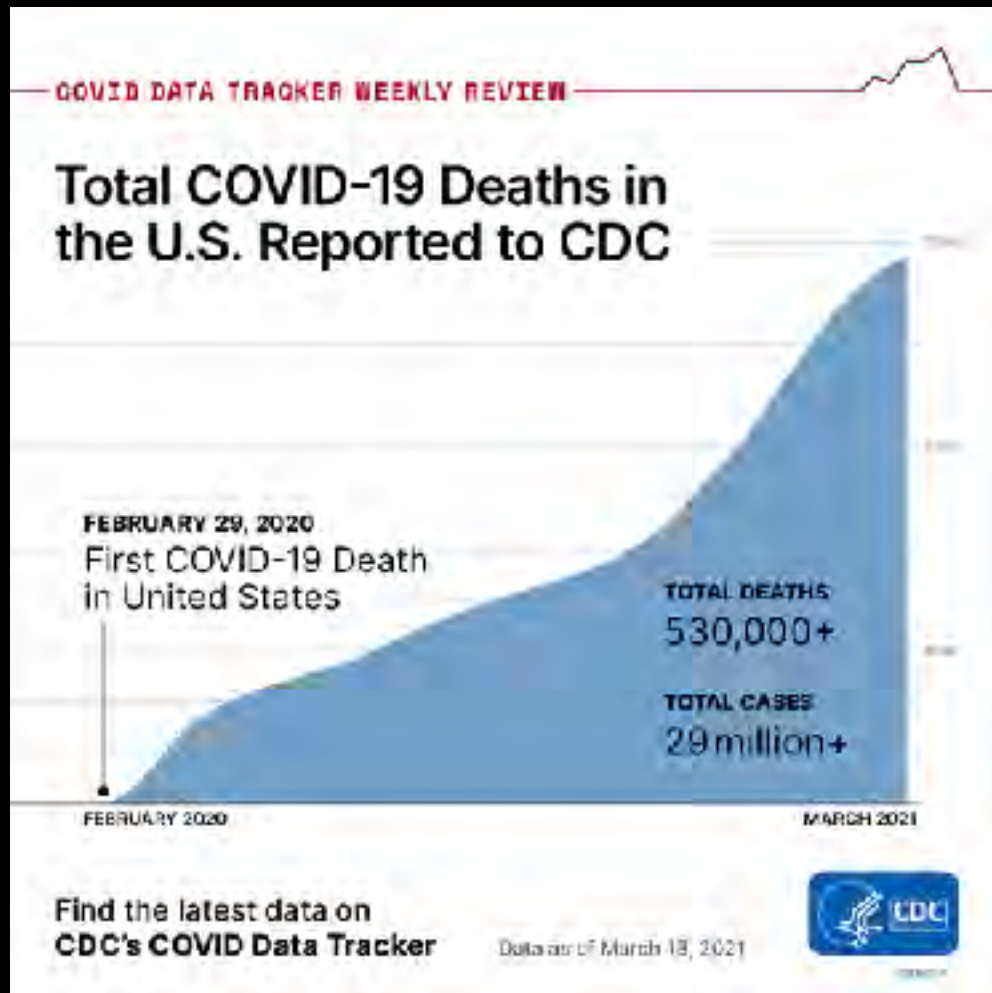


# NUMBERS

**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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- c. 527,726
- d. 36,919,777

# 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?

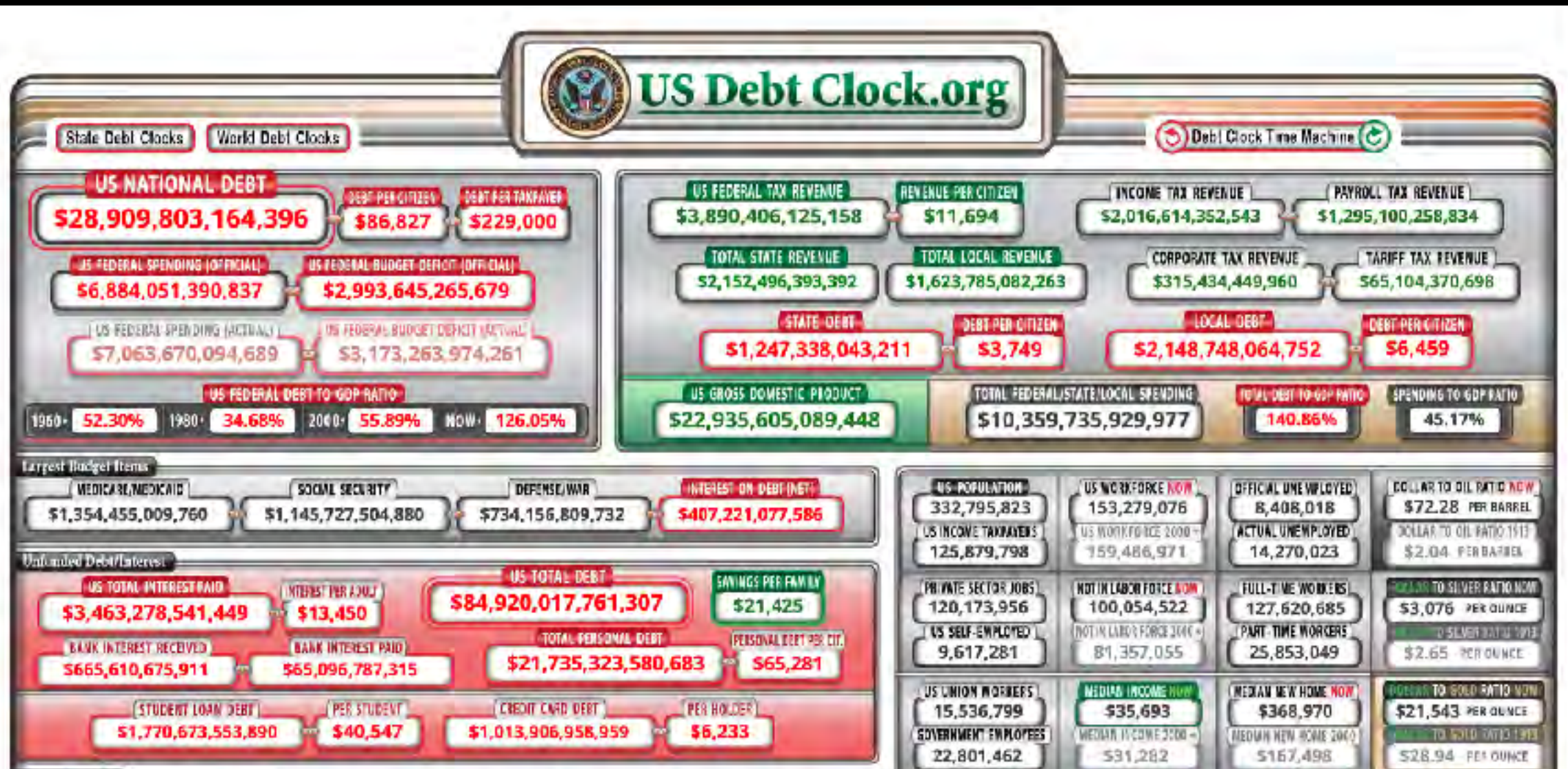
- a. 10.1%
- b. 7.8%
- c. 4.7%
- d. 3.7%**



# 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

# 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

.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

# 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



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. _____ |

# EASIEST QUESTION

**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

**The fire became the largest on record in the state's history, scorching more than a million acres, devastating cattle ranches and consuming homes. Never before had anyone seen a fire quite like the Smokehouse Creek fire. Where??**

- a. Maine and New Brunswick, Canada
- b. Mendocino County, California
- c. Eastern Alaska
- d. **The Texas Panhandle**

MISSED BY 0% OF STUDENTS  
STATE 2024

# MOST MISSED QUESTION

**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

**According to a study published in JAMA Pediatrics in late April, what did scientists find may protect against developing depressive symptoms, anxiety and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder in children and adolescents?**

- a. cutting social media use
- b. having an imaginary friend
- c. **physical activity**
- d. avoiding popular, and violent, computer games such as Mortal Kombat

MISSED BY 78% OF STUDENTS  
STATE 2024

# THE ESSAY





**Hualde Leader-News**  
ESTABLISHED 1900  
ISSN 0013-788X  
**MAY 24, 2022**



# ★ SPORTS SUNDAY

HOUSTON CHRONICLE • MAY 31, 2020 • SECTION C •

A head-and-shoulders portrait of Colin Kaepernick, looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. He is wearing a dark jacket, and the background is a brick wall.

## Imagine.

If we had embraced Colin Kaepernick's peaceful protest and paid attention to the issue he was trying to address.

## Imagine.

We could be working toward change instead of witnessing the chaos, anger and violence in our streets.

## Imagine.

Because this was exactly what Kaepernick was protesting.

Not the anthem. Not the flag. Not the military. But unchecked police brutality against people of color like George Floyd in our country.

## Imagine.

A photograph of Colin Kaepernick in his San Francisco 49ers uniform, wearing a red jersey with the number 7. He has his arms crossed and is looking off to the side. The background shows a blurred crowd at a stadium.

COMMENTARY BY ANN KILLION AND MIKE FINGER ON PAGE C3

# The essay matters.

# THE ESSAY



University  
Interscholastic  
League

CURRENT  
ISSUES  
&  
EVENTS

@UILCIANDE

SOCIAL  
STUDIES

@MRACADEMICS

## 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

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

The Texas Legislature opened on Jan. 10 and will run for 140 days until May 29. But already, much of the agenda of the 181 members is set. **Discuss** some of the people leading the legislature, the issues they have on their agenda and the challenges they face.

2024

Invitational A – Technology / Business

Invitational B – Texas Legislature

District – International (Israel/Hamas)

Region – National (MIP)

State – National (climate change)

**DISTRICT 2024**

# 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

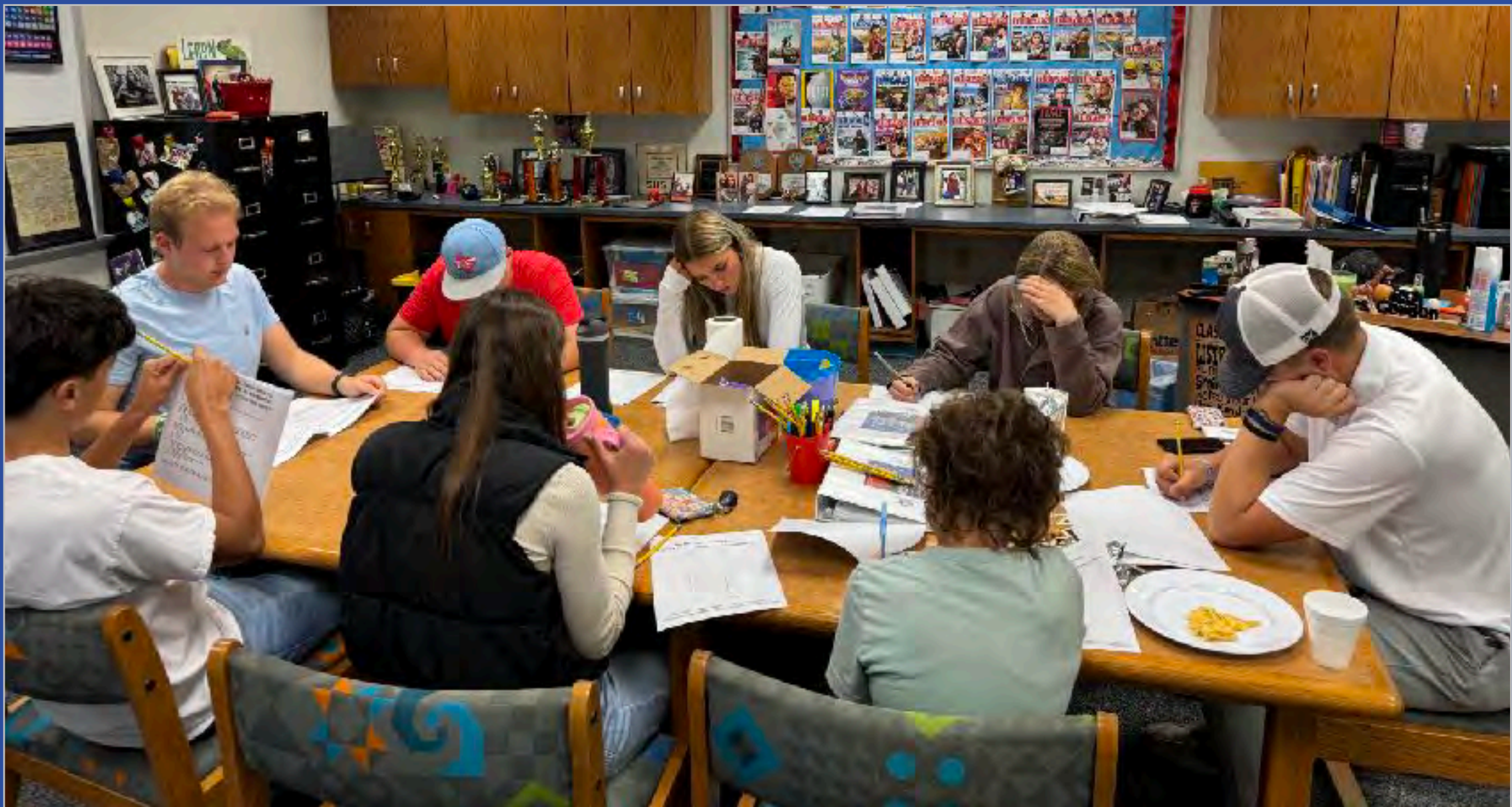
## FINAL PLACES

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



# HOW TO PREPARE

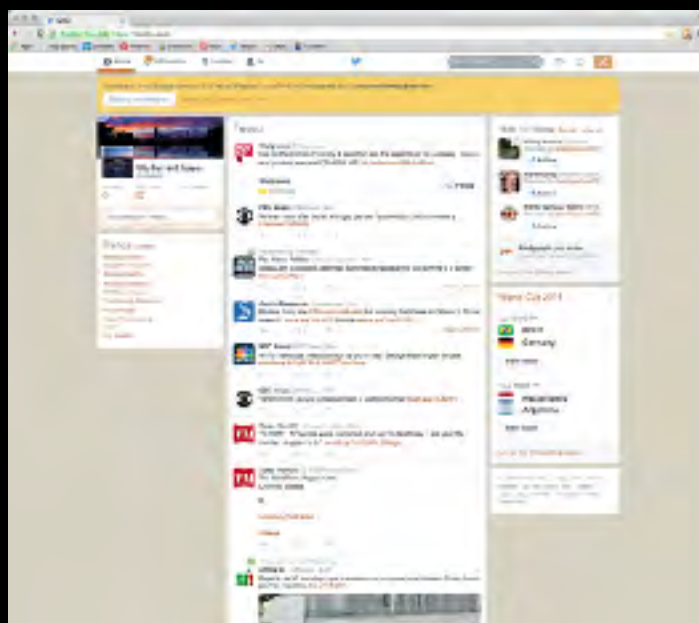
**I still have 8 who want to practice CIE even though only 4 can take the test! They love this event! Thanks for continuing to make it interesting!! Kelly Gordon, Borden County**



# FOLLOW CI&E



## Texas UIL Current Issues and Events




## @uilciande #uilciande



# 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

# 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.



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

Compiled by John Cole 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: Associated Press/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

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: Associated Press/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.

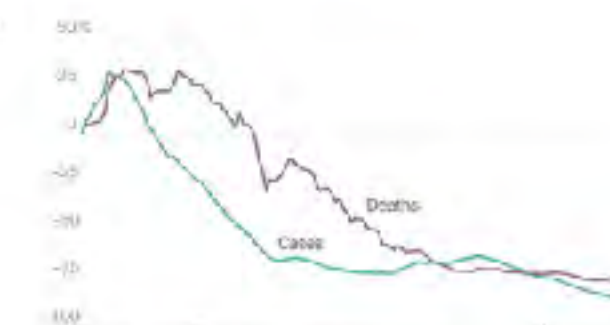
three

10

25

100

3 of 10



U.S. (The New York Times) | Sources: John and Jeremy Eagle, with assistance from the authors.

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

summer 2020

November 2020

January 2021



# STUDY







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

### Hyper-Partisan 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

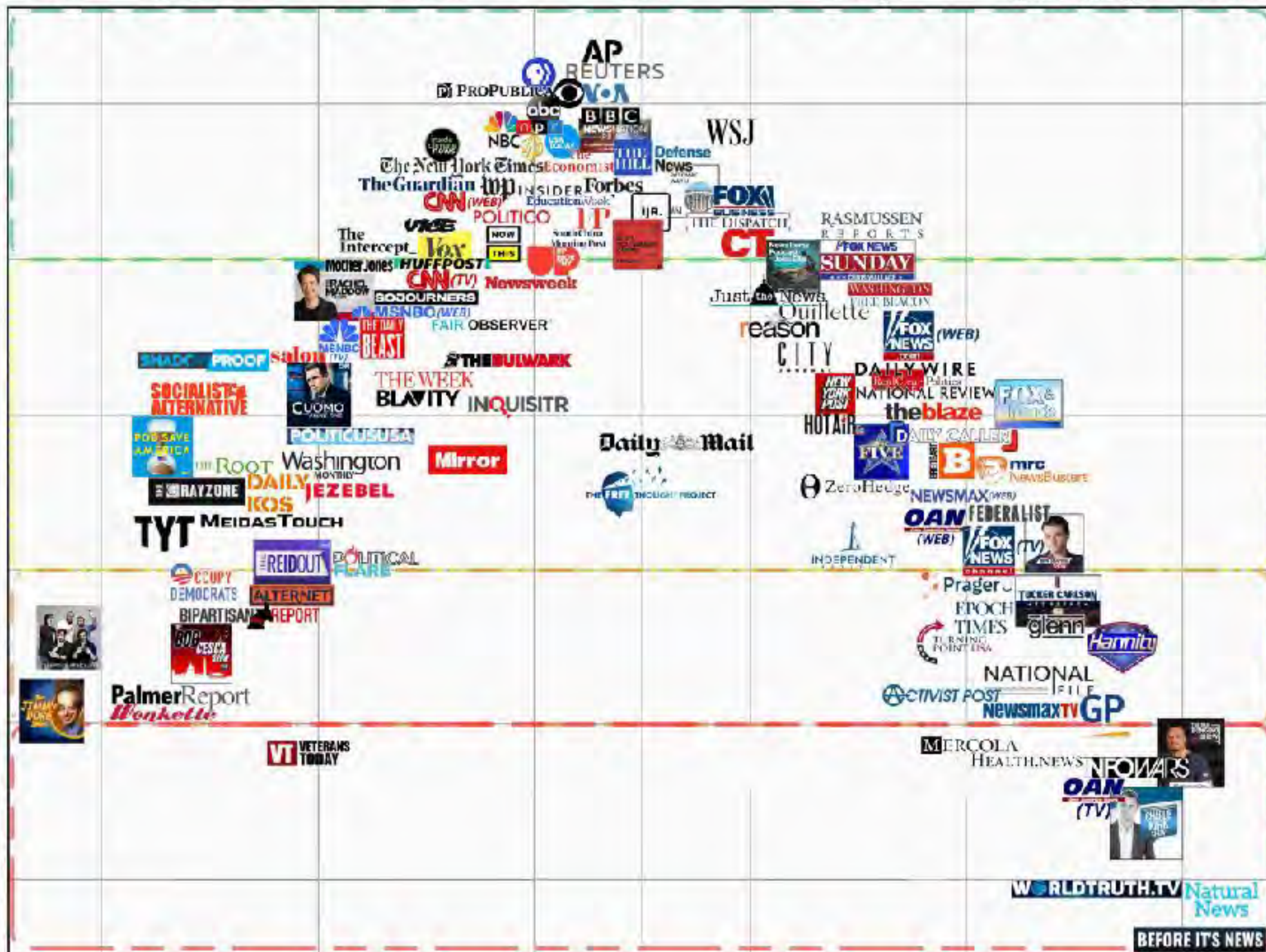
SET

LEFT

## Bias

RIGHT

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# 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

# STUDENT ACTIVITY CONFERENCES

Sept. 7	Tyler Junior College (Tyler)
Sept. 14	Lone Star College-North Harris (Houston)
Oct. 5	Texas Tech University (Lubbock)
Nov. 2	University of Texas at Austin



# CONTEST DATES 2024-2025

Invitational A	Jan. 10 - Feb. 1
Invitational B	Feb. 7 - March 8
District	March 24-29
Region	April 25-26
State	May 19-21

# CUT-OFF DATES 2024–2025

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. 20, 2024, is fair game for any exam**. However, the following cut-off dates may assist in studying for multiple-choice questions.

Invitational A	Aug. 20, 2024 - Dec. 1, 2024
----------------	------------------------------

Invitational B	Aug. 20, 2024 - Jan. 6, 2025
----------------	------------------------------

District	Sept. 23, 2024 - Feb. 14, 2025
----------	--------------------------------

Region	Oct. 21, 2024 - March 13, 2025
--------	--------------------------------

State	Jan. 6, 2025 - May 16, 2025
-------	-----------------------------



## 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



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  
Meet over the last two days. Great to  
and Hook 'Em! @uilciande



Meet your reply



















Roy Rodriguez @MrRod4Edu · 11h

.@uiltxas 2015 5A Current Issues Champions (3rd year in a row.) A&M Consolidated HS with @uilciande #uilstate2015



Thomas DeGolier @DeGolierThomas · 8h

@uilciande is a large part of why I want to pursue a political science degree

RETWEET

1

FAVORITE

1



10:38 PM - 26 May 2015 · Details



RETWEETS

5



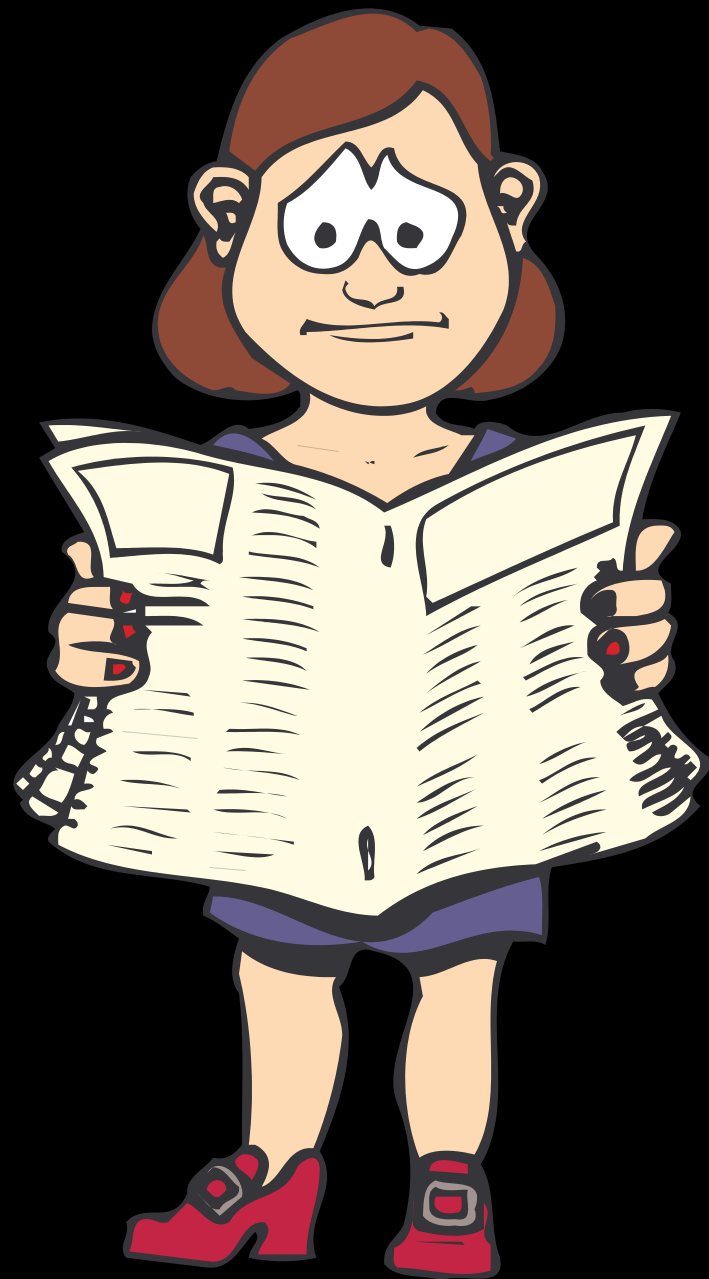
Nancy Jeanes and 7 others favorited a Tweet you were mentioned in

9h

14h: What an amazing time at #uilstate2015 so thankful for my team & coach! A huge S/O to @bradleywilson09 and @uilciande  
[pic.twitter.com/Oz49JM8Apl](https://pic.twitter.com/Oz49JM8Apl)



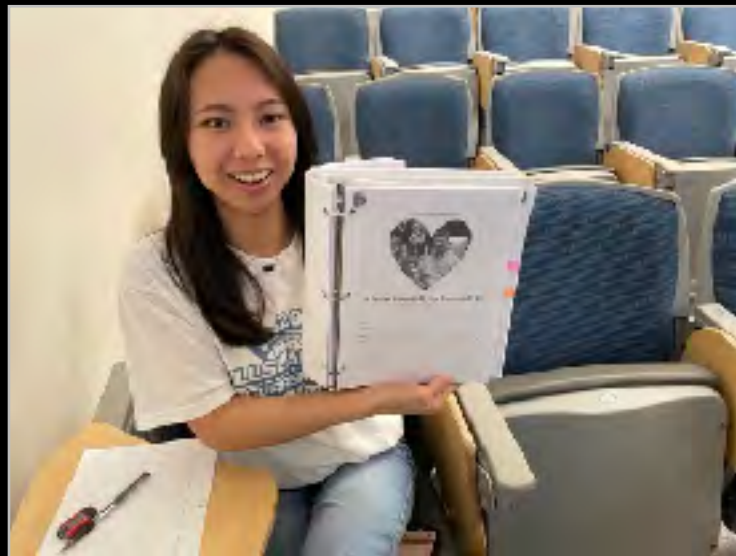
10:10 AM - 26 May 2015



## **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



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@bradleywilson09





Q U E S T I O N S ?



**Evaluate the  
conference.**

*Complete this  
after your last session.*



Tyler Junior College