

# 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.

# *The Pandemic Erased Two Decades of Progress in Math and Reading*

The results of a national test showed just how devastating the last two years have been for 9-year-old schoolchildren, especially the most vulnerable.

 Give this article    1.5K



The declines in the national test scores spanned almost all races and income levels and were markedly worse for the lowest-performing students... *Jim Wilson/The New York Times*



By [Sarah Mervosh](#)

Sept. 1, 2022

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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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NEXT ARTICLE

## TODAY'S MUST READS

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

JOBS

ECONOMY | WORLD ECONOMY | US ECONOMY | THE FED | CENTRAL BANKS | **JOBS** | 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

OPINION

# What ChatGPT Can't Teach My Writing Students

Learning to write trains your imagination to construct the person who will read your words.

By Jonathan Malcsic



As the first student papers of the academic semester come rolling in, college and high-school teachers are expressing concern about ChatGPT, the artificial-intelligence interface that responds to queries with competent, if boring, paragraphs. It seems to open up whole new vistas of academic dishonesty, and it calls into question how and why we teach writing at all. A professor at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School has said that ChatGPT's answers to his operations-management class would have earned a B or B-. That seems about right; if a student in my first-year writing class had turned in a ChatGPT-generated essay last semester (and for all I know, someone did), they would have easily passed.

The fact is, boring competence is better than what some high-school or college graduates attain, and it's all most people, in their daily lives, need their writing to be. If, in a few years, AI can do a passable job at most adult writing tasks—sharing information, telling quick stories, apologizing for the delay, and expressing a hope that all is well—then why spend so much time in school learning the maddening complexities of English prose? Surely there are more important things to study than subject-verb agreement, comma splices, and transition sentences.

But learning to write is about more than learning to write. For one thing, it's about learning to turn a loose assemblage of thoughts into a clear line of reasoning—a skill that is useful for everyone, not just those who enjoy writing or need to do a lot of it for work.

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE PRISONER

Learning to write is about more than  
What ChatGPT Can't Teach My  
writing students  
learning to write.

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For one thing, it's about learning to  
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into a clear line of reasoning—a skill  
that is useful for everyone, not just  
those who enjoy writing or need to  
do a lot of it for work.

# 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:

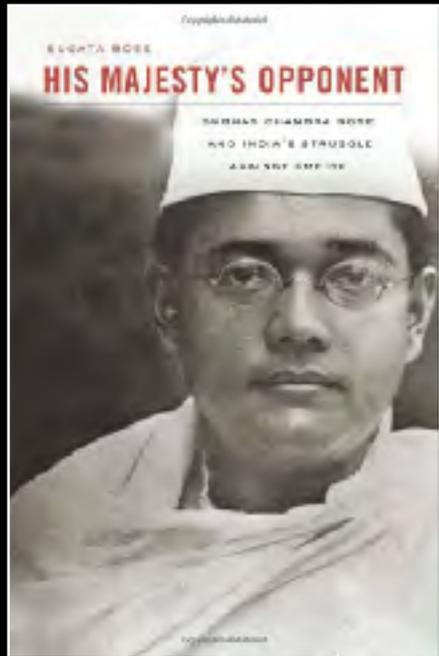
Examine the question in a variety of contexts: social, political, economic, cultural and scientific (SPECES), for example.

# ABOUT THE CI&E 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)

# ABOUT THE SOCIAL STUDIES CONTEST



## 2023-2024 READING

*His Majesty's Opponent: Subhas Chandra Bose and India's Struggle against Empire* by Sugata Bose, Harvard Press, 2012

- 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 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

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

# LET'S LOOK AT CLASS 6A IN 2019

Four people tied for first place based on an objective score of 31. We'll call them Alpha, Beta, Delta and Gamma.

Alpha was a CI&E studdette. She got a 7 on the essay and remained in first place.

However, Beta, Delta and Gamma didn't do as well on the essay, scoring 6, 5 and 4.5 respectively.

# LET'S LOOK AT CLASS 6A 2019

Zeta, who scored a 29 on the objective portion and was in sixth place, however, scored an 8 on the essay.

Student	Objective	Place Before	Essay	Total	Place After	Change
Alpha	31	1	7	38	1	0
Beta	31	1	6	37	4	-3
Gamma	31	1	5	36	5	-4
Delta	31	1	4.5	35.5		-7
Epsilon	30	5	7	37	3	+2
Zeta	29	6	8	37	2	+4
Eta	29	6	6	35		-7
Theta	28	8	8	36	6	+2

# LET'S LOOK AT 2022

## CHANGE IN PLACE

Final Place	1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A
1	1	-1	-1			-1
2		1	-3 (B)			1
3	3 (A)	1	-1		-1	1
4	-2	2		1	1	
5	-2	-1	4	2		
6	1	-1	-5	-1	6	

Final place is objective plus essay.

(a) **Positive numbers** indicate moving up from, for example, seventh place to third (+3). (b) **Negative numbers** indicate moving down from, for example, first place to fourth (-3).

# THE ESSAY

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

# HOW WE CHOOSE THE TOPIC



# 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.

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■ **POINTS AWARDED:**

Judge 1

**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

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**Comments:**

ES  
MICS

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.

**OVER**

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# 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.



JUDGE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# ESSAY SCORING

## CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS | SOCIAL STUDIES

Each essay will be read and assigned a score by each judge individually based on the appropriate scale. Once the judges have graded all essays independently, they will, collectively, determine the final score by consensus. | The essay should be judged on content first. Writing style, clarity and precision of composition should be secondary considerations. | In the question of quality versus quantity, judges will determine whether an essay that introduces many points shall be scored higher than an essay that develops fewer points more substantially.

ENTRANT NUMBER	THESIS / ARGUMENT / EVIDENCE	WEAKNESSES	SCORE

# A PROMPT

## CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS REGION 2019

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 PROMPT

## CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS **STATE 2018**

The academic year has been a year of social movements including, but not limited to, #metoo, #timesup, #neveragain, #blacklivesmatter, #nobannowall. Some of these started in 2017 or 2018. Some are decades old but got new life this year. Pick two or three of the movements active this academic year and discuss the circumstances surrounding each.

The academic year of 2017-2018 has witnessed an impressive amount of movements based around society. Each movement involves different groups of people with a uniting factor, which allows them to introduce change not only in America but also on an international scale. Three of the most important social movements are the #metoo movement, the #blacklivesmatter movement, and the movement centered around gun violence led by the survivors of Marjory Stoneman Douglass High School.

February 17, 2018, oversaw a horrendous massacre of students in Parkland, Florida; however, the day also allowed roots to dig in for the coming change in America. Following the depressed period of mourning, survivors of Nikolas Cruz's rampage began advocating for stricter gun laws to better protect America's schools system. Directly one month after the shooting, the first March for Our Lives took place across the country with famous supporters such as George and Amal Clooney and Elizabeth Warren. The event gained traction quickly with thousands of Americans marching across the nation and having multiple speeches given by organizers like Emma Gonzalez, a survivor and figurehead of the movement. During April, the marches influence spread and caused standards to further their advocacy on gun laws to walk out of the classroom. Multiple walkouts occurred throughout the month both in favor of and against the movement.

After witnessing the immense talking about gun violence, two major retailers — Walmart and Dick's Sporting Goods — stopped selling assault-style weapons and high-

# THE PROMPT

## SOCIAL STUDIES REGION 2019

Just as Gandhi's actions drew inspiration from Henry David Thoreau's views on passive resistance so too did his ideas influence Martin Luther King Jr.'s approach to affecting change. These beliefs and their accompanying tactics were emulated by numerous movements around the world and in the United States. Discuss the use, effectiveness, and limitations of passive resistance in advancing the causes of U.S. civil rights movements.

# THE PROMPT

## SOCIAL STUDIES [STATE 2019](#)

“SNCC is special because we are young. We’re 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 year-olds. Most of us have dropped out of school so we’re no longer students, but we don’t have mortgages, we don’t have car payments, we don’t have families, we don’t have husbands and wives and children, so we can do these things. And because we’re young we are also foolish and we are willing to take risk.”

-Julian Bond, *The Century: America’s Time*

Many young people likened their work in the black civil rights movement to military service inasmuch that they may have to lay down their lives in order to achieve victory. However, the same youthful exuberance that energized campaigns also led to eventual fissures in the overall movement. Younger leaders felt stymied by the glacial pace of reform seemingly endorsed by their elders and sought more aggressive, sometimes militant, tactics. Discuss the impact youth had on the black civil rights efforts in the United States. Be sure to mention key individuals, groups, and events that accelerated and/or hindered the movement.

LET'S TRY IT

# LET'S TRY IT

- Read essay
- Assign it a score — **ON YOUR OWN**. Write that score down where only you can see it. Do NOT reveal your individual score to anyone.
- Get in a group of three
- Review the essay's strengths and weaknesses
- Assign it a score — **AS A GROUP**. Write that score down.
- We'll discuss as a large group.



University  
Interscholastic  
League

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ISSUES  
&  
EVENTS

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STUDIES

@MRACADEMICS

# RUBRIC

## for Social Studies and CI&E essays

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 PROMPT

## CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS [STATE 2023](#)

Public education advocates created a wish list of issues they wanted Texas legislators to prioritize. Topping that list was increasing state funding for public schools. But funding isn't the only education-related issue on the agenda of the Texas Legislature or the U.S. Legislature. While the establishment of education is one of the powers reserved to the states, members of both the executive and legislative branches at the national level have tried to make changes in various aspects of the educational system. In addition to funding, pick two issues at the state and/or federal level that relate to K-12 education in Texas. Discuss the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of all three issues (funding and two others of your choice) in a well-organized and informative essay.

# THE ESSAY

Over the past 30 years, Texas schools have seen many changes. With the introduction of new technology along with having to adapt to student needs, it has been difficult for many schools to keep up. Add that to the now looming threat of student safety and you have the requirement of a totally reformed Texas schooling system.

In recent years, schools in Texas (and schools across the country) have experienced disasters related to student safety. With the tragedy at Uvalde still fresh on our minds many schools have seen an influx of safety regulations applied to their schools. Gone are the days where students could freely roam the halls or enter and exit the school. With the new wave of protection policies, education and schools will be conducted in a more safe manner.

Along with safety, another protuding change coming to Texas schools is the adaptation to specific student needs. Not all students learn the same way and Texas schools are beginning to realize it. This way, students will now be able to experience a more 1-on-1 teaching experience.

Some people are going to have to face it, Texas schools are changing. Funding is no longer targeted towards athletics but rather to the student. It may not be the way that past generations of Texans learned but these changes will only better the education and protection of the student.

# THE ESSAY

WHAT SCORE WOULD YOU ASSIGN IT — 0-10?

# THE ESSAY

## Rubric for the CI&E Essay

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:

**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.

**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 organizational skills displayed. May contain errors of fact that do not seriously detract from the quality of the essay.

**A 2-4 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 0-1 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.

Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Consensus
---------	---------	---------	-----------

3	3	3	3
---	---	---	---

Comments:

- Lacked thesis
- Needed more development

**OVERALL ESSAY SCORE**  
(maximum of 10 points)

3 ✓

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

26 ✓

**OVERALL SCORE**  
(add essay score to objective score)

29

# THE ESSAY

LET'S LOOK AT ANOTHER ONE

# THE ESSAY

Public education is now undoubtedly at the forefront of debate in legislatures around the country. States are now making drastic changes to what teachers can say and do. In addition to debate about funding, the Texas legislature has worked towards banning transwomen from women's sports and banning CRT from the education system.

Arguments about public education are not a new phenomenon. In fact, it's been a point of debate for centuries. In modern America, the question primarily applies to whether state and federal governments should give private school vouchers to parents wanting to send their children to private schools. The issue gained some traction after the idea was floated by President Bush, but recently resurged since 2021. In Texas, the measure is currently going through the legislature but some rural Republicans aren't on board.

but some rural Republicans aren't on board. Citing loss of funding for their already poor schools. The Texas legislature recently passed a bill to ban trans people from women's sports. The issue has sparked outrage from the trans community and its allies as transphobic and cruel, while those who support the bill state that it protects women's sports. President Joe Biden has threatened to withhold federal funding from any school that bans trans people from competing.

Finally, the legislature banned CRT under the definition that it teaches kids that "one race is inherently superior or inferior, that one is responsible for their ancestors' actions, or that one is oppressive or oppressed because of their race."

While most scholars agree that that's not the definition of CRT, the bill was signed into law by Governor Abbott and has been attacked by Democrats and some independents.

Education has become an increasingly polarized and partisan issue, and that will likely not change. Democrats and Republicans have discovered a new issue to legislate, and the damage it is causing is clear to see. Schools are being defunded, teachers are being censored, and school board meetings are becoming loud and violent.

# THE ESSAY

WHAT SCORE WOULD YOU ASSIGN IT — 0-10?

# THE ESSAY

## Rubric for the CI&E Essay

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Judge 1	Judge 2	Judge 3	Consensus
---------	---------	---------	-----------

5

Comments:

**OVERALL ESSAY SCORE**  
(maximum of 10 points)

5 ✓

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

32 ✓

**OVERALL SCORE**  
(add essay score to objective score)

37

# THE PROMPT

## CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS [STATE 2019](#)

The year 1992 might have been the first to get the label “Year of the Woman” after the election of a number of female senators and the hotly contested Senate confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas when Anita Hill raised concern about the dominance of men in the Senate. However, when historians look back, they’ll unquestionably view the academic year 2018-2019 as a year of the woman as well.

Using substantial, relevant information and varying national and international perspectives (political, social, cultural, economic) with at least three specific examples, analyze the idea that 2018-2019 was another “Year of the Woman.”

# GRADE THE ESSAY

I'm certainly in favor of calling this the Year of the Woman. And its about time.

I mean just look at what happened in Congress this year.

• 117 women were elected or appointed to Congress

Around the world. Worldwide, women led some 26 countries as elected heads of state, including Germany, Bangladesh and Lithuania. Angla Merkel, for example, has been described as the de facto leader of the Europeon Union, the most powerful woman in the world, and as the leader of the Free World. Merkel announced in December that she would not seek reelection as her party's leader nor would she continue as chancellor after 2021. She was the country's first female chancellor.

Of course it was also a woman, Theresa May, who lead the efforts of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union.

Not all women are success stories.

# CURRENT ISSUES & EVENTS

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# SOCIAL STUDIES

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Comments:**

**OVERALL ESSAY SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_  
(maximum of 20 points)

**OBJECTIVE SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

# GRADE THE ESSAY

I'm certainly in favor of calling this the Year of the Woman. And its about time.

I mean just look at what happened in Congress this year.

- 117 women were elected or appointed to Congress.
- 102 women were elected to the House.
- 15 women were elected or appointed to the Senate.
- 36 women are new members.

And thats just at the national level. At the local level, one-fourth of state legislatures was female.

Around the world, Worldwide, women led some 26 countries as elected heads of state, including Germany, Bangladesh and Lithuania. Angla Merkel, for example, has been described as the de facto leader of the European Union, the most powerful woman in the world, and as the leader of the Free World. Merkel announced in December that she would not seek reelection as her party's leader nor would she continue as chancellor after 2021. She was the country's first female chancellor.

Of course it was also a woman, Theresa May, who lead the efforts of the United Kingdom to leave the European Union.

Not all women are success stories.

Women also celebrated big successes in sports and science.

Sarah Thomas was the first female official to work in NFL postseason history. It was only last summer when two black women became the first time two women to officiate an NBA game together. The NBA got its first female referee in 1997. And last fall, the NBA promoted five referees to full-time status, including the fourth and fifth women in league history to achieve full-time status.

NASA astronauts Anne McClain and Christina Koch we're set to make history on March 29 as the first all-female crew to perform a spacewalk at the International Space Station. NASA said the spacewalk was delayed, "due in part to spacesuit availability."

Greta Thunberg, 16, my age, hasnt graduated high school, but shes already a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. The Swedish activist is being considered for the honor in recognition of her work in the fight against climate change. I wish I were smart enough to be nominated for a Nobel Prize.

It was in 1920 when the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was finally ratified guaranteeing all American women the right to vote. But it was 100 years later when we celebrated the Year of the Woman.

# THE PROMPT

## CURRENT ISSUES AND EVENTS [STATE 2021](#)

The statement from the White House on Jan. 20 began, "President Biden is sending a bill to Congress on day one to restore humanity and American values to our immigration system." But over the next few months, what happened along America's southern border, a border with Mexico, was frustrating for the Biden administration as well as state and local officials and seen as anything but humane by observers from both parties.

Describe some of the challenges local, state and federal officials have faced in recent months along the border, what might be behind the problems at the border and what is being done about these problems.."

# GRADE THE ESSAY

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What are some challenges at the southern border of the United States. One of the main challenges is the large amount of human trafficking trafficking hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants into our country. Another challenge on the local level is the release of the illegal immigrant into the general public without being properly tested for infection such as COVID-19 and then causing spikes in these communities along the Rio Grande in Texas. A challenge on the state level is trying to put large amount of law enforcement on the border but also have enough of it in rest of the state to keep rest of the state safe also. A way Greg Abbott help with these two is with the lone star taskforce. What might behind the swipe in illegal immigrant is current President administration main campaign point was reversing the past administration border policies and having a open border. A way this problem has been fix reversing back to the past administration policies. In conclusion

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# WHAT GRADE DID YOU GIVE IT?

## POINTS AWARDED:

**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

Judge 1

Judge 2

Judge 3

Consensus

Comments:

**OVERALL ESSAY SCORE** \_\_\_\_\_

# GRADE THE ESSAY

## COMMENTS FROM JUDGES

I fear that this essay very heavily editorializes. Try to maintain an objective, sort of analytical tone, at all times.- Make sure to organize the essay. Include a thesis, separate paragraphs, and transitions.- Strive to add more specific factuality. For example, what are the specific Trump policies that Biden has reversed? Is Biden really advocating for an open border?

Essay needs a thesis and information to support that statement

Opening: No thesis just jump in to the essay...work on giving the readers a roadmap for the essay. Cause of Problem:

potentially new administration roll back of past policies

Challenges: Human trafficking, potential spikes in Covid, State level man hours in law enforcement to Solutions: N/A

# GRADE THE ESSAY

Following the inauguration of President Joe Biden, southern border crossings by undocumented migrants have skyrocketed - reaching the highest level in over a decade by some metrics. This "crisis", as some have deemed it, has drawn the ire of Republican leaders who hope to capitalize on the politically controversial issue and resulted in promises to address the issue from the halls of the Capitol and the Biden Administration itself.

The increase in crossings by undocumented migrants may partly be driven by the belief that President Biden is more receptive to the plight of Central Americans than his Republican predecessor Donald Trump. Policy changes might also have contributed to the phenomenon. Biden terminated a Trump-era policy that required asylum seekers to seek asylum in bordering

sequent increase in migrants has resulted in detention centers becoming overwhelmed well beyond capacity. This harkens back to the crisis in Summer 2019 under President Trump. Republicans have focused upon the issue. For example, GOP including Senators Ted Cruz (TX), and Lindsey Graham (SC), organized a trip to the border and an immigration official Texas Governor Greg Abbott alleged widespread sexual abuse of accompanied minors in these camps and expressed concerns about the spread of COVID-19 by migrants.

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thru fight climate change, was recently floated. Some Republican legislators, such as Senator Graham, have expressed some enthusiasm for amnesty (or at least an easier path to documentation), ~~the~~ opening the pathway for bipartisan Congressional reform. With President Joe Biden's first hundred days recently ending, the former Delaware\* senator has yet to release a comprehensive policy solution. However, we may soon have one as just yesterday Biden replied to protesters urging him to abolish ICE: "Just give me five days."

\* as in a Senator representing Delaware at the federal level

# WHAT GRADE DID YOU GIVE IT?

## POINTS AWARDED:

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**A 6-10 ESSAY** lacks a thesis or presents a confused or undeveloped thesis. It deals with the prompt in a superficial way

Judge 1

Judge 2

Judge 3

Comments:

# GRADE THE ESSAY

## COMMENTS FROM JUDGES

Good writing. I appreciate this author writes with a little style (say, that nice quip to end the essay).; - The essay is well-written with a sound basis in facts. Each paragraph is driven by logical analysis. - My only quibble is that the essay ignores some major factors in the current crisis: the numbers of children crossing and the conditions in Central America that are driving the situation.

# 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.

# CONTACT US



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## **CURRENT ISSUES**

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