Editorial Writing

2019 Central Texas Invitational Meet

You are a reporter for the Leaguetown Press, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School. From the given information, write an editorial as you would for the high school newspaper. You may use statements attributed to individuals as direct or indirect quotes. You may not change the meaning of a statement. You have 45 minutes. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. Put your number

on your paper.

Leaguetown High School is located in Central Texas and has 2,200 students enrolled in grades 9-12. Last week, a senior experienced a medical emergency during school after vaping with an e-cigarette in a bathroom. The senior was unconscious when the ambulance arrived and is now being treated for a lung infection at the hospital. The day after the incident, Principal Ariel Anderson ordered a third of the school bathrooms to be locked and assigned a teacher to each of the remaining open bathrooms. This week, Anderson reopened all student bathrooms but removed all bathroom doors. Stall doors are still intact, and teachers are no longer assigned bathroom duty. None of the bathroom stalls nor any of the urinals are visible from the hallway. Only sinks and the drying area are visible. Anderson said this is where most of vaping occurs.

Anderson also announced stricter consequences for vaping. She said students caught vaping on campus or with e-cigarette equipment would be suspended at home for three days. Students who receive a second vaping violation will have a removal hearing for the alternative school, Anderson said. So far this year, 244 students have been caught vaping. Their punishment was a day in in-school suspension (ISS).

Teachers support Anderson's changes and so does the Parent-Teacher Association. Students have voiced frustration over the bathroom changes, and the Student Council officers met with Anderson to ask for the return of the bathroom doors. Anderson denied the request.

Citing their right to privacy, a group of student leaders will ask the school board at its next meeting, Dec. 11, to intervene and reattach the bathroom doors. You are writing for the issue of the Press to be distributed Monday, Dec. 9.

Those supporting the principal

Vaping is getting out of control at the high school. Since it is odorless, students are puffing throughout the day, especially in bathrooms. More than 10% of the student population has been disciplined for a vaping incident. Anderson's changes are harsh, but that is what is needed.

Those opposing the principal

Students deserve privacy in the bathroom. It's one place where they can decompress. That can't happen if the door is missing. Male students will be able to peer into female restrooms and vice versa. This is disconcerting, to say the least.

■ ARIEL ANDERSON, principal

"I agree these measures are a bit drastic, but I am at my wit's end. E-cigarettes are dangerous, and vaping is out of control here at the school. Our bathrooms have become a social area for our vapers. Yesterday, a teacher caught three girls vaping as they were reapplying lipstick. They didn't even flinch when the teacher walked in.

"We've tried education programs, but the students are not listening. It's time to be more creative and more punitive. I told the Student Council officers that if we see a dramatic drop in e-cigarette incidents over the next few months, I will consider putting the bathroom doors back on in April or May. But until then, I have no intention of doing so. I cannot ask my faculty to stand guard in the bathrooms all day long. It's not feasible, and teachers already are stretched too thin. This may not be a popular decision, but it is a necessary one to keep students safe. The students are a bit over-dramatic about this. I took the bathroom doors, not the stall doors. They still have privacy."

■ JANELLE HORTON, senior class president

"This is seriously wrong. Who takes bathroom doors? Ms. Anderson didn't even want to hear our arguments. She just said she was sorry for the inconvenience. I don't know why teachers can't patrol the bathrooms, or the school could hire more security monitors. Heck, I bet parents would even volunteer to roam the halls and bathrooms. There is a better solution. Officers from several different clubs, including the National Honor Society, the Spanish Club and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will be at the board meeting to oppose this breach of our privacy."

■ CHARLENE ROCHA, freshman

"I'm actually not upset that they took the doors. The bathrooms here are pretty scary. Several juniors and seniors have offered their vaping pens or Juuls or whatever they are called to me when I went to the bathroom. The students were smoking right out in the open. It was pretty unnerving. At least, with the doors gone, they won't be able to do that out in the open."

■ LINDSEY AHMED, president of the PTA

"I agree with Ms. Anderson. Vaping is out of control. My son is a freshman, and he was stunned by the number of kids who vape at school. He said he's seen kids do it during class because the e-cigarettes have no smell. Taking the bathroom doors is not ideal, but it shows that Ms. Anderson and her administration are fed up. I also like the tough consequences. Maybe if enough students get suspended, vaping will stop at the school. I am frustrated that the school even has to deal with this. Parents should be the ones dealing with this. They should know if their kid is vaping, and they should stop it before it gets to school. But we have too many parents with their heads in the sand. A three-day suspension might wake everyone up."

■ ANNE GARULE, parent

"I may be the one parent who is against this. If 10% of the population is vaping, 90% is not, and that 90% deserves privacy in the bathroom. The school needs to deal with the students who are vaping and punish them. Every student should not be punished for the actions of a few."

■ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

According to the Centers for Disease Control, most e-cigarettes, which are odorless, contain nicotine. Nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development, which continues into the early to mid-20s. E-cigarettes can contain other harmful substances besides nicotine.

Feature Writing

2019 Central Texas Invitational Meet

You are a reporter for the Leaguetown Press, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School. From the given information, write a feature story as you would for the high school newspaper. You may use statements attributed to individuals as direct or indirect quotes. You may not change the meaning of a statement. You have 60 minutes. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. Put your number

on your paper.

Leaguetown High School is located in Central Texas and has 1,110 students enrolled in grades 9-12. In late October, junior Debi Pettis was in a car accident on CR 451. Moments before veering off the road and crashing into a tree, Debi was replying to a text from her boyfriend. The accident trapped Debi in the car for almost an hour. Firefighters had to use the jaws of life to get her out of the car. When the firefighters finally freed Debi, she had only a weak pulse, both her legs had multiple breaks and she had a 4-inch gash across her right cheek. She also had a collapsed lung. After three surgeries to repair her legs and lung, Debi returned home in late November and returned to school last week.

This week, Debi started a campaign at the school called "Trunk It and Leave It." The program encourages drivers to put their cell phones in their trunks before getting in the car to drive. Debi made posters for the hallways and also is doing a weekly announcements to promote the program. Debi also created a pledge for drivers to sign that states the driver will put his or her cell phone in the trunk before driving. Starting next week, Debi will have the pledge in the cafeteria during lunch for students and staff to sign. You are writing for the issue of the Press to be distributed this Wednesday, Dec. 11.

■ DEBI PETTIS, junior

"I don't remember everything about the accident. I remember looking up from my phone, and then the tree was right there. Then, I remember the firefighters calling me and telling me that they would get me out. I was so scared. I couldn't move at all. I kept going in and out of consciousness.

"The three weeks in the hospital was tough. It wasn't until the second day when the doctors stabilized me that I truly regained consciousness. I promised myself that if I survived that I would do something so others could learn from my mistake. I don't want anyone to have to go through what I did.

"Texting while driving is stupid. It's as simple as that. But almost everyone I know does it. I did it all of the time even though I promised my parents that I wouldn't do it, and even though it's illegal.

"When I was in the hospital I came up with the 'Trunk It and Leave It' campaign, and I pitched it to Principal Bearinger when she visited me. She thought it was a great idea and supported me 100%. I know there are lots of campaigns about waiting to text when you are driving, but this one is a little different. I want drivers to be physically separated from their phones. Then, they won't be tempted. Before I started driving, I always said I wouldn't text and drive, but it's hard when you are driving and hear a text arrive on your phone. Students need to know that texting isn't worth it. I was texting my boyfriend about what movie we should go see when I had the accident.

■ DEBI PETTIS, continued

Something so trivial almost cost me my life. Every text can wait until you get home. If students need proof, they can look at my face. The 4-inch scar is a constant reminder that texting while driving isn't worth it.

"Before starting the campaign, I researched some statistics to help educate other students. I was shocked. According to the Department of Motor Vehicles, distracted driving accounts for approximately 25% of all motor vehicle crash fatalities. Driver distraction is reported to be responsible for more than 58% of teen crashes. We all know what most 'distracted driving' is — using our phones.

"I want to do more than announcements and posters. I want to get promises from every driver in this school. This is how we can save lives. Already, I've seen some students and staff put their phones in their trunks before leaving school. The first time I saw a student do it — that was my happiest and proudest day."

■ ELYSSA BEARINGER, principal

"I love the 'Trunk It' campaign. I will be in the cafeteria on Monday to sign the pledge. Since Debi shared her idea with me, my cell phone has been in my trunk on every drive. And I have seen several students and staff do the same thing before they leave our parking lot. I truly believe this pledge will save lives.

"I visited Debi that first day in the hospital. I should say I visited her family. Debi was in such critical condition that I didn't see her. We didn't know if she was going to make it. Thankfully, by my second visit Debi was doing so much better."

■ BRENDA PETTIS, Debi's mom

"That day was the worst day in my life. When I got the phone call that Debi had been in a wreck, I thought for sure it was a fender bender. Then, the officer told us to meet him at the hospital. My heart sank. The officer wouldn't tell me that she was OK. He only said she was still breathing when they pulled her from the car.

"It's been a long road, but Debi has made an almost full recovery. She was lucky. We were lucky. When Debi told us about her 'Trunk It and Leave It' idea, I was so proud. She wants others to learn from her mistake. Teens think they are invincible, but they are not. Debi is living proof of that."

■ MICHELLE DONALDSON, junior

"I will sign the pledge, but I started putting my phone in my trunk after I saw Debi's poster. At first, it was hard. If my phone was on really loud, I could still hear it beep from the trunk. My impulse was to turn and get it. I used to text and drive all of the time. I never thought it was a big deal, but then I talked with Debi and saw her scar. It's not worth it. Not at all."

Headline Writing

Central Texas Invitational Meet • 2019

Story 1 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 25-32

To raise funds for the spring banquet, the Spanish Club will host a lock-in at the school gym Friday, Dec. 20 — the first day of the winter break. All students are invited to attend.

The lock-in will start at 7 p.m. and end at 7 a.m. Cost will be \$25 per person.

"Several local restaurants have donated food, so we will have everything from queso to cupcakes," Spanish Club sponsor Headley Hanks said.

Students also can participate in a dodgeball tournament and a granny-style free throw contest.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Spanish Club president Noelle Chavez said. "We have so many activities planned. No one is going to get bored or tired."

Junior Cassidy Jones said she and several of her friends plan to attend.

"I'm not in Spanish Club, but it sounds like a blast," she said.

Hanks said he will limit the number of students at the lock-in to 150. He also will have four other teachers attending as chaperones.

Tickets for the lock-in will go on sale during lunch starting Friday, Dec. 13.

"I suspect we will sell out within a day or two," Hanks said.

Story 2 — Write: 3-line headline with each line counting 10-17

Hoping to start a new tradition, senior class officers are encouraging seniors to wear school colors, purple or grey, for the class panoramic photo next Friday.

"We want everyone to show their pride," senior class president Jamison Blunt said.

Blunt said he got the idea after visiting his cousin at Southside High School last week.

"They display their senior group photos in the front hallway like we do, but in every one of their photos, the students are all wearing the school colors," he said. "It looks cool."

Senior Jasper Smith said he and most of his friends plan to wear the senior shirt.

"I like this idea," he said. "Plus, it will get my mom off my back. She always wants me to dress up for school photos."

Stanish Studios will take the panoramic, and seniors can purchase a photo for \$12 each.

Story 3 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 22-28

At the district competition in Houston, DECA students took home 25 medals — a record for the school. Plus, 14 students will advance to the state competition for role playing, and another seven students will advance with written presentations.

"I was blown away by our results," DECA sponsor Kari Kubicek said. "The most we have won in the past was five medals. This is five times that."

DECA president Sharon Plumley, a junior and one of the members who will advance, said the club worked hard to prepare for the competition.

"We set our goal in September to bring home at least 10 medals," she said. "We put in a lot of long hours after school and on the weekends, but it was worth it."

In total, 47 students competed in the district competition, which covers different business and marketing categories, including sports and entertainment, human resource management, entrepreneurship and finance.

The state competition will be held in Dallas on March 27.

"The level of competition at state is tough," Plumley said. "That means more long hours to prepare. It's good thing we all like each other so much."

You are a copy editor for the Leaguetown Press, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School. Write the headline assigned for each of the given six stories. Use the following system: all upper and lower case letters, spaces, punctuation marks and symbols count as 1. Capitalize the first letter of the first word of each headline. You may use either upstyle (capitalizing the first letter of every word) or downstyle (capitalizing the first letter of the first word and the first letter of proper nouns only thereafter). Remember that main headlines belong on the top line and secondary headlines belong under the main headline. You have 30 minutes. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. Put your number on both sides of your

paper.

Story 4 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 16-24 and a 1-line secondary headline counting 25-32

Freshman Ricky Rodriguez has always had an entrepreneurial spirit.

At 7 years old, he had a lemonade stand. At 11 years old, he washed cars and mowed lawns in the summer. And now at 14, he has a thriving business with three employees who each earn about \$200 a week.

"My new business might not be the most glamorous job, but it definitely pays well and has little overhead," Ricky said.

Ricky's new endeavor is Poop Patrol, which he started this fall when his lawn mowing business started to die down.

"Mowing lawns is seasonal," he said. "Dogs poop in every season."

So, Ricky made some fliers and started delivering them around the neighborhood. In one week, he had 15 customers.

"By the second week, I had to get friends to help because I had too much business for just myself," he said.

Poop Patrol charges \$20-30 a yard, depending on the size.

"We each have about 10-15 yards that we clean after school each week," Ricky said. "Right now, I have a waiting list because we can't take on any new clients."

English teacher Robyn Ramirez hired Ricky two months ago and is thrilled with his service.

"It's a great deal," she said. "Poop scooping used to be one of my most hated chores. I gladly pay \$20 a week to get it done."

Story 5 — Write: 1-line main headline counting 10-18 and a 2-line secondary headline with each line counting 15-22

Senior Bobbi Proctor dunked her way into history last week when she became the first female to win the Central Texas Power Drink Dunking Contest.

Proctor beat out 49 other competitors -47 of them were male.

"I'm not going to lie," the 6-foot-4-inch varsity player said. "It felt good, really good."

After being challenged by several of the boys' varsity players, Proctor decided to enter the contest.

"The guys knew I could dunk, but they didn't think I could beat them," she said. "I guess they know now."

Senior varsity player Patrick Jett said he was blown away by Proctor's performance.

"We've seen her dunk during a game, but I had no idea how high she could get," he said. "We all bow down to her now." To win the contest, Proctor leapt over another player sitting in a chair.

"I was 100% sure I could make the jump and the shot even though that was my first time trying it," she said.

Proctor said she began dunking her sophomore year.

"I rarley do it in games," she said. "There's no need to be a show off."

This is the 21st year for the dunking contest, which draws participants from all over the state.

"We always have a few females enter, but they usually get knocked out in the first round," contest director Sue Gathright said. "The first time I saw Bobbi dunk, I knew she would make it to the finals. She's pretty amazing."

Story 6 — Write: 2-line headline with each line counting 20-27

After the winter break, student athletes will have one more coach to help them prepare for their sport. Mike Tedder, a 2011 graduate, will join the athletic staff as a strength coach.

Tedder, who has a master's in physical education, was an assistant strength coach at Baylor University where he worked with the baseball team.

"I am beyond thrilled to return to Leaguetown and work with our student athletes," Tedder said. "Coming home has been a dream of mine for years."

Athletic director Nick Stuessy said he has been lobbying for a strength coach since he arrived at the district four years ago.

"We need someone who can teach proper fundamental movement patterns and weightlifting progressions," Stuessy said. "This is extremely important to keep our athletes healthy and strong."

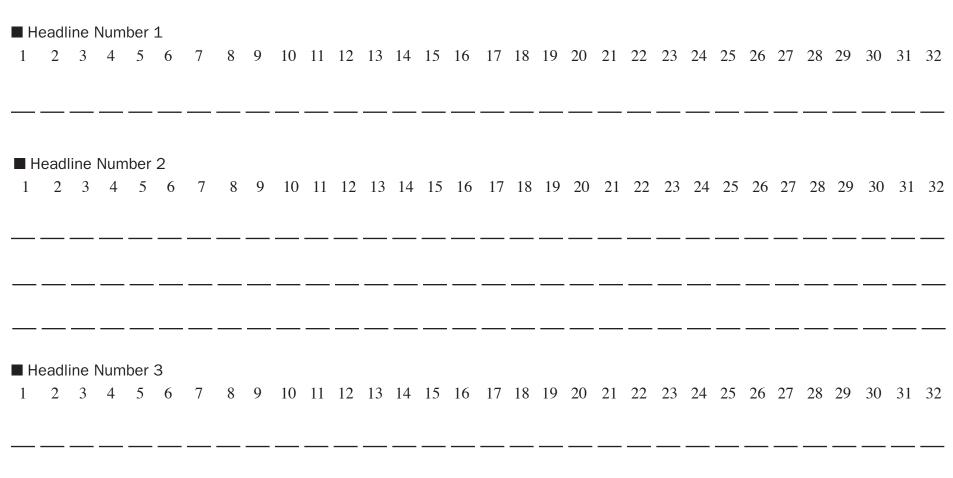
Junior James Ray, a pitcher on the varsity baseball team, said he is looking forward to working with Tedder.

"I know I need to strengthen my arms, but I am always wary of lifting weights," he said. "I don't want to do anything to injure myself."

Contestant's Number	

CenTex Meet • 2019 Headline Writing Entry Sheet

All letters (upper and lower case), numbers, punctuation marks, symbols and spaces count as one (1). Place one letter or other unit in the appropriate spaces below. Remember to leave spaces between words. Note that the number of lines you are given on this sheet corresponds to the number of lines required for each headline. **Write your number on the upper right-hand corner of this sheet.**



News Writing

2019 Central Texas Invitational Meet

You are a reporter for the Leaguetown Press, the student newspaper of Leaguetown High School. From the given information, write a news story as you would for the high school newspaper. You may use statements attributed to individuals as direct or indirect quotes. You may not change the meaning of a statement. You have 45 minutes. Do not write your name or the name of your school on this sheet or entry. Put your number

on your paper.

Leaguetown High School is located in Central Texas and has 2,300 students enrolled in grades 9-12. In November, Safe-T, a company that specializes in school safety, made a presentation to the school board about its school safety products, including a personal alert device (PAD) for teachers. The PAD is a key fob that teachers wear around their necks. Teachers can alert school security by pressing and holding a red button on the front of the fob. When the alert is activated, school security receives an emergency alert with the teacher's location. Safe-T also showed the school board several other safety products, but the board liked the PADs the best. It voted unanimously to purchase a PAD for each high school teacher and administrator. The PAD system will cost \$70,000. The district will pay for the system with funds from a safety innovation grant that it received in September.

Teachers and administrators will receive training on the PADs on Jan. 7 when they return to school from the winter break. Teachers will begin wearing the devices to school the following day. Leaguetown is the first school in Central Texas to use the devices. Two schools in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex piloted the devices last spring.

You are writing for the issue of the Press to be distributed this Monday, Dec. 9.

■ MORRIS RONDALL, superintendent

"With school shootings on the rise, our district and community wanted to ensure the safest campus possible, and these PADs will help us get there. The high school is a large campus with four separate buildings and two parking lots. That's a lot of space for our two resource officers and seven high school administrators. The PADs will help our team get to situations faster and more efficiently.

"The PADs will be helpful in other emergencies — whether it's a medical emergency, an altercation, a safety hazard, suspicious activity or any situation where a teacher doesn't feel safe or needs help. We want our security and administrators on the scene as fast as possible. The quicker our response time, the better the results.

"The training on Jan. 7 will take about two hours, and then each teacher and administrator will be issued a key fob. We will store the key fobs in the main office where the chargers will be located. Teachers will pick them up in the morning and drop them off after school.

"I spoke with the superintendent of Northton ISD last week. His schools started using the PADs last year, and his teachers love them. He said the PADs gave both parents and students peace of mind and helped in several non-shooting emergencies."

■ FRANCIS RICKMAN, social studies teacher

"I have mixed feelings about the PADs. On one hand, I am glad the school board is trying to make the campus a safer place, and I do think the PADs will help. On the other hand, I am not thrilled about having to wear it every day. It doesn't sound like a big deal to drop off your PAD every afternoon and pick it up every morning, but it will be on some days. I have two children in kindergarten, and I take them to school every morning, which means I am always rushing to be ready for my first period class. Stopping by the office to pick up the PAD is going to take time — something I don't have much of in the morning. I asked if another teacher could pick mine up, but the principal said everyone has to sign his or her PAD in and out every day. That's going to be a pain. I also am not thrilled about the cost if we lose it. It's too expensive for any teacher."

■ JASON VIRGIL, parent and president of the PTA

"The PTA supports the purchase of the PADs 100%. We believe they will improve school safety and help our teachers when different emergencies arise. We would like the administration to expand the use of the PADs to include after school activities, though."

■ DEAN BROWNE, athletic director

"The coaching staff is eager to get their PADs, but we are a bit frustrated that we can't wear them to our after school athletics. Last year, we had a student collapse on the field during after school practice. It would have been much quicker for us to push a button than to send students inside the building to call 911."

■ EDEN METZLER, principal

"Most of our staff is excited about the PADs. Some teachers have shared some concerns with me. Several staffers, especially coaches, want to use the PADs for after school activities, but we don't keep our security that late in the day. We will not have anyone monitoring the emergency calls. We simply don't have the people-power or the money to make that happen. Coaches and teachers should use their cell phones for emergencies after school. Plus, we plan to lock the storage room with the PADs 30 minutes after school ends. We don't want everyone in the school to have keys to that room. The equipment is too expensive."

■ ANDREW NEGROS, sophomore

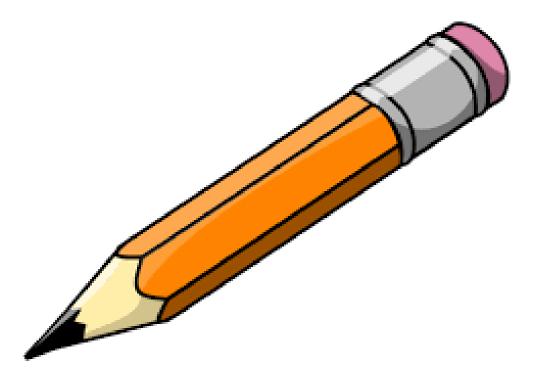
"I support any measures to make the school safer. My cousin is a student at Sante Fe High School. She wasn't injured in the shooting, but she described that day to me. She heard everything and saw several of the students who were shot. Honestly, I am a little scared to come to school sometimes. My mom says schools are still safe, and I want to believe that. But it doesn't feel like that when you see what is happening around the country. I am glad the teachers are getting those emergency alert buttons. I think our school should do even more — maybe metal detectors or banning backpacks?"

■ ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Teachers who lose their fobs will be responsible for replacing them. A new fob will cost \$599.

Central Texas Invitational Meet

COPY EDITING CONTEST



FOR JUDGE'S USE

Points from	Points from	TOTAL	PART 3
PART 1	PART 2	POINTS	is graded ONLY to break ties.
POINTS/15	POINTS/10	POINTS/25	

CenTex COPY EDITING CONTEST

DIRECTIONS: This test is divided into three sections. Write all your responses as indicated. You have 15 minutes.

PART 1: Circle the correct response. (1 pt. each)

- 1. My English teacher wrote a novel, which she hopes will be a **best-seller** / **bestseller**.
- 2. He is proud of his **African American** / **African-American** heritage.
- 3. I **recommend** / **reccomend** that you read the assigned novel.
- 4. She **lead** / **led** the children through the museum.
- 5. Labor **day** / **Day** is the first Monday in September.
- 6. He always complains when his mom tells him to **takeout / take out** the trash.
- 7. I love the novel "Beloved." / Beloved.
- 8. Joe Smith wants to be the **General Manager** / **general manager** of a pro team.
- 9. "He ran **through** / **thru** the airport," she said.
- 10. I can't wait **untill / until** I'm done with my homework.
- 11. He **flouted** / **flaunted** his father's rules by sneaking out with the car.
- 12. She buys **kitty litter / Kitty Litter** for her three cats.
- 13. That was a **bizarre** / **bizzare** coincidence.
- 14. The humanitarians were concerned about the **peoples** / **people's** freedom.
- 15. The ropes were tied so **loosely / losely** that it was easy to get free.

Contestant number	

CenTex COPY EDITING CONTEST

PART 2: Edit the following sentences to eliminate FOUR (and only four) errors in wordiness as well as any errors in AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation in each of the five items. Use clearly understood editing symbols. Any others will be ignored. (2 pts. each)

1. Senior Tom Daniels is a starter in three sports. Football, basket ball
and baseball. College recruiters have had their eye on him for two years.
2. Lisa does not like her Science class, The smell of formaldehyde make
her nausous.
3. "Math is awesome, algebra teacher Jan Jefferson said, "Ill never understand
why so much students hate the subject."
4. My parents wish I would date more people but Ive been with my boy friend
for two years and I couldn't be happier.
5. As a general rule men don't like to ask for directions and woman think thats
hilarious.

CenTex COPY EDITING CONTEST

Part 3: In the space provided, edit the following news brief as necessary to make the wording clear, to eliminate wordiness as well as any errors in AP style, grammar, spelling or punctuation. You do NOT have to rewrite the news brief. Make notes of anything you believe needs clarification, additional research or additional reporting. (25 pts.)

Its always been said that twins support each other no matter what.

That's not exactly the case with Juniors Casey and Kelly Wharton, both are running for to be next years Student Body President. The election will be held on Friday.

"When I told Casey I was planning to run, he looked at me funny, but didn't say anything," said Kelly.

The next day when I went to talk our class sponsor Mrs. [Beth] Henderson, she told me Casey had signed up the day before."

Kelly and Casy have both been in Student Council since they were freshman. They have held varius offices through out the years, but they have never shared a office. And they don't plan to do so next year.

"Of course I love my sister, and want only the best for her," Casey said, "But that doesn't mean I'm going to let her have the office I want. I plan to have a strong campaign and beat her fare and square."

Kelley said she feels the same.

"I've been working on my stratagy," she said. "I won't tear down Casey in anyway but I will show our class why Im the better choice."

Henderson said she's in a usual position.

"I've had both of them in class this year," she said. "They are both qualified and each would make a great class president. I'm glad I'm not the won who will vote, because I'm not sure how I would make a choice."

Kelly said she is looking forward to going head to head with her brother.

"May the best twin twin," she said.