

I. Current Events ID

Please identify the following using two or three sentences. Explain why each was prominent in the News.

1. Ted Cruz
2. Jeff Bezos
3. Detroit
4. Twerking
5. Bill de Blasio
6. Edward Snowden
7. Stop and Frisk
8. Breaking Bad
9. Hassan Rouhani
10. Sochi
11. Malala Yousefzai
12. John Boehner
13. Fracking
14. Syria
15. Janet Yellen
16. HealthCare.gov
17. Alice Munro
18. Harry Reid
19. Drones
20. John Kerry

II. News Analysis

Please write a news analysis of 400 words or fewer on ONE of the following topics. Aim for a factual, editorial-style piece or an expository essay. Use specific examples to add strength to your piece. It is suggested you use the first five to ten minutes of this section outlining the analysis, and the last five minutes editing the piece.

Entrance Exam – First Essay

1. Write a news analysis of 400 words or fewer on ONE of the following five topics. Aim for a factual editorial-style piece or an expository essay; use specific examples to add strength to your piece.

FORMAT: Please indicate which question you have chosen. You are not allowed to use spelling for grammar check software on the computer. If you do, your test and application for admission will be voided.

TIME: You should spend a maximum for 45 minutes on this section; it is suggested that you spend the first five to ten minutes outlining the analysis, and the last five editing it.

Choose ONE of the following essay questions:*

- The Tea Party is a distinct minority in American politics. Why, then, does it exercise such power in Congress?
- The Supreme Court is again taking up the question of whether public universities can consider race and ethnicity in admitting students to college. What should the Supreme Court decide?
- Hydraulic fracturing, sometimes called fracking, is a new process to extract natural gas. Do you favor its use? Why or why not?
- One year from now, will the Affordable Care Act be working as an effective health insurance system? Or will major changes have to be made? Argue your case using persuasive evidence.
- Imagine you are in charge of drafting a peace plan for Israel and the Palestinians. Considering all the key issues, what would you propose?

Type your essay here:

III. News Writing Drill

There are enough facts in the following passage to support a basic news story, but the facts are disorganized. Please rewrite the passage, turning it into a story that conveys the key news quickly and comprehensibly.

Entrance Exam – Second Essay

1. There are enough facts in the following passage to support a basic news story, but the facts are disorganized. Please rewrite the passage, turning it into a story that conveys the key news quickly and comprehensibly.

Prosecutors yesterday filed three felony charges and a misdemeanor charge against Roland E. Richardson, 43, of St. Louise. They said he resisted arrest, drove while intoxicated and committed two counts of vehicular assault—allegedly trying to run officers over.

Richardson’s problems started earlier that day near 17th and Ewing streets. At 3:07 p.m. Sgt. John Flynn of the Pruville Police Department stopped Richardson for driving erratically.

“The officer was in his rights to pull over Mr. Richardson,” Assistant District Attorney Lanford Casing later said at the arraignment. “The driver clearly could have killed somebody.”

Judge Samuel Sanderson ordered Richardson held without bail “until he has thoroughly detoxed.”

After Richardson was pulled over, he refused to get out of his car, according to Sergeant Flynn, then sped his vehicle backward toward the policeman’s car and raced away. The car also swerved toward an officer standing on a sidewalk who was preparing to throw a tire-flattening device into the roadway, according to court records.

Richardson refused a chemical test of his breath to determine his alcohol level, according to court records. He allegedly told detectives he had ingested heroin, the records said. The car crashed through a locked fence gate and ran several stop signs and red lights before getting on Interstate 70. The car barreled into a closed construction zone at Interstate 70 and Interstate 435 and continued driving into Blue Springs, where officers arrested Richardson behind the wheel. Richardson’s car stopped only after it had plowed into an unoccupied newsstand at the corner of Main and First streets, scattering newspapers, cigarettes and candy bars across the busiest intersection in town.

When detectives asked why he had had tried to ram the sergeant’s car, Richardson said he didn’t know. But when detectives asked about demolishing the newsstand, Richard said, “That was pretty impressive,” according to court records.

“It was pretty clear that he didn’t belong on the road,” said Sergeant Flynn. “At first, he thought he was being arrested by two of me.”

IV. Grammar

Select the right answer to each question for correctness and for clarity.

1. The NSA's surveillance of Chancellor Angela Merkel has adversely (effected) (affected) U.S.-relations.
2. Neither Bill de Blasio nor Michael Bloomberg (have) (has) come out in favor of a City Council bill to allow non-citizens to vote in local elections.
3. The company filed (its) (it's) (their) documents on time, said a spokeswoman for the Securities and Exchange Commission.
4. The senator declined to say how she would vote on the bill, but she (inferred) (implied) her opposition by criticizing each the bill's provisions.
5. The new drug (homes in) (hones in) on cancer cells found in certain leukemias, researchers said.
6. My editor said a video interview with the playwright would nicely (complement) (compliment) my piece on the new comedy at The Public Theater.
7. The copy chief assigned the piece to (whoever) (whomever) was ready to edit fresh copy.
8. (Flouting) (Flaunting) just about every dorm rule, Felix was kicked out of school in his first year.
9. Maria decided not to apply for a job at Vogue, given her (disinterest) (lack of interest) in fashion.
10. Tough questions didn't (phase) (faze) Lyndon Johnson, according to reporters who covered his presidency.
11. The food critic wrote that TV judges should use just one criteria in picking the best chef: taste. correct or incorrect
12. Editorials in The New York Times call for the closure of Guantanamo Bay prison, however other publications disagree with this view. correct or incorrect
13. Who's speaking at the press conference? correct or incorrect
14. Talented and experienced, Reuters was quick to offer a job to Raj. correct or incorrect
15. The car that I bought in Sweden is still running well. correct or incorrect
16. Russia's Peter the Great became a skilled diplomat during his rein. correct or incorrect
17. Only one of these headlines makes sense. correct or incorrect
18. I landed a part-time internship, so I'm taking less courses this year. correct or incorrect
19. Last year, documentary filmmaker Ken Burns released "The Central Park Five," a movie he made with his daughter, Sarah Burns about the false convictions obtained in a 1989 rape case. correct or incorrect
20. Although he thought he took careful notes; he misquoted one of his sources. correct or incorrect

