



## The Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, Inc. 2009 Intern Program Controlled Editing Exercise

For Fund Use: SCORE \_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
College/University \_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Title of Monitor \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Monitor's Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Date Exam Given \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/08

### Instructions

Please read these instructions before beginning. **The 5-page test has a one-hour time limit.** It consists of five parts for a total of 100 points: Part 1, grammar; Parts 2, 3 and 4, current events; and Part 5, editing and headline writing.

**Answers must be written on the test. Test-takers are permitted to have only blank paper, pens and pencils.**

The exercise will test your basic copy editing skills and will give you an opportunity to demonstrate your news judgment and your ability to deal with a deadline.

The headlines should be written in the spaces provided in Part 5. Each line of the headlines should be no more than FOUR units short of the total count and must not exceed the total. Don't forget to leave a space between words. Count each character (from a comma, to a capital W, to a space) as one unit. For example, the headline below would have the following counts:

**Editing Test (12 units)**

**Called Easy (11 units)**

**By Students (11 units)**

For the editing component, you should look for spelling, grammar and usage mistakes, as well as contradictions and/or gaps in the stories.

**Do not begin the test until you have been instructed to do so by the monitor.**

Participants and monitors for this national competition should not divulge the contents of this exercise. No parts of this exercise can be reproduced without written permission of the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund.

**Part 1—Grammar and Usage:** Circle the correct choice in each example.

1. The reporter **pedaled/peddled** his bicycle to work every day.
2. The sportswriter said she would be out for **awhile/a while**.
3. He is a **stanch/staunch** supporter of press freedom.
4. She wouldn't say **who/whom** she would vote for.
5. The editor was charged with **drunk/drunken** driving.
6. She asked if the reporter would **makeup/make up** quotes in a story.
7. First Amendment **principals/principles** must be defended.
8. Democrats or Republicans: Whose economic plan is **better/best**?
9. He has to decide **whether/whether or not** to attend the convention.
10. The newspaper **that/which** I've read for 20 years will stop publishing next week.
11. He bought his computer **secondhand/second hand**.
12. She will **depart/depart from** Newark Liberty Airport at 3 p.m.
13. Her reaction, **which/that** I didn't expect, was swift and harsh.
14. The publisher stood behind a **lectern/podium** when she addressed the staff.
15. He was driving **toward/towards** St. Louis when he phoned in his story.
16. **Fewer/Less** than 20 people took the buyout.
17. Neither the reporters nor the editor **was/were** available to answer questions.
18. The publisher will choose **whoever/whomever** she thinks is most qualified.
19. The lazy editor decided to **lay/lie** down before reading the article.
20. The editor warned reporters to be **discreet/discrete** in their after-hours activities.

**Part 2—Current Events:** Provide the correct answer in the blank space.

1. The host city for the 2008 Summer Olympics was \_\_\_\_\_. Michael Phelps became the star of the Games, winning a record eight gold medals in \_\_\_\_\_. The host nation drew much criticism for its stifling of protests involving the territory of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Pervez Musharraf stepped down as the president of \_\_\_\_\_. Separately, Ehud Olmert said he would resign as prime minister of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Natural disasters struck the country of \_\_\_\_\_, where an earthquake killed 70,000 people, and Myanmar, formerly known as \_\_\_\_\_, where a cyclone killed more than 100,000 people.
4. The latest Batman movie, \_\_\_\_\_, set a record opening weekend with ticket sales of \$155.3 million.
5. California's Supreme Court overturned a ban on \_\_\_\_\_, making it the second state to hold these unions constitutional.
6. The U.S. Supreme Court, in a Second Amendment decision, said the District of Columbia couldn't ban \_\_\_\_\_ in the home.
7. Bruce E. Ivans killed himself as the FBI presented its case showing him to be the person responsible for mailing deadly \_\_\_\_\_ letters in 2001.
8. The Justice Department approved the merger of Sirius and XM \_\_\_\_\_ radio.
9. NASA scientists were elated to discover that ice was found in soil samples from the planet \_\_\_\_\_.
10. \_\_\_\_\_, in a dramatic playoff, won the U.S. Open championship then announced that knee surgery would keep him from playing for the rest of 2008.
11. The \_\_\_\_\_ home-mortgage crisis continued to take a toll, with thousands of people around the country forced into foreclosure. Linked to the crisis, it appeared more likely that the federal government would have to bail out two mortgage financiers, Freddie Mac and \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Memories of the Cold War were rekindled when Russia invaded \_\_\_\_\_, a former member of the Soviet Union.



**Part 3—Geopolitics and more:** Place the number that corresponds with the people/descriptions below in the correct state.

1. Democrats held their 2008 convention in this state.
2. The Democratic presidential candidate represents this state.
3. The Democratic vice presidential candidate represents this state.
4. The Republicans held their 2008 convention in this state.
5. The Republican presidential candidate represents this state.
6. The Republican vice presidential candidate represents this state.
7. John Edwards, a former senator from this state, admitted to an extramarital affair.
8. Eliot Spitzer resigned as governor of this state after a prostitution scandal.

**Part 4—Legends:** Match the name of the famous person in the left column who died in 2008 with the description that applies to him.

- |                           |   |                                 |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Charlton Heston        | — | first to scale Mount Everest    |
| 2. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn | — | voice of the chef on South Park |
| 3. Tim Russert            | — | Moses and Ben-Hur, among others |
| 4. Isaac Hayes            | — | “Gulag” author defied Soviets   |
| 5. George Carlin          | — | “Meet the Press” host           |
| 6. Sir Edmund Hillary     |   |                                 |



**Part 5—Editing and headline writing:** Edit the following story and write a headline that has two lines with a maximum character count of 30 per line.

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College presidents from a number of the nation's most prestigious universities, including Duke, Dartmouth and Ohio State, have asked lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 20 to 18, saying current laws encourage binge drinking.

The movement, called the Amethyst Institute, was started by John McCardell, a former president of Middlebury College in Vermont, and includes such less prestigious schools as Syracuse, Tufts and Colgate.

McCardell's group takes its name from ancient Greece, where the purple gemstone amethyst was widely believed to ward off drunkenness if used in drinking vessels and jewelry. He said college students will drink no matter what, but do so more dangerously when it's illegal.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving quickly criticized the proposal, saying it would lead to an increase in fatal car crashes. Laura Dean-Moody, president of MAD, said it's "very clear" that the drinking age won't be enforced on many campuses.

Donna Shalala, president of the University of Miami and a former secretary of state in the Clinton administration, was one of a number of college administrators who declined to sign on.

According to one study, more than 40 percent of college students reported at least one symptom of alcohol abuse or dependence. An Associated Press analysis of federal records showed that 157 college-aged people drank themselves to death from 1999 through 2005.

**Part 5—Editing and headline writing, continued:** Edit the following story and write a headline that has two lines with a maximum character count of 28 per line.

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NEW YORK—Crude-oil futures prices posted their biggest one-day decline since 1991, falling \$6.59 a barrel yesterday to close at \$114.59 a barrel. Meanwhile, gasoline prices continued to decline from the record of \$4.10 a barrel this summer.

The all-time record high crude-oil price was set on July 3, when the futures price hit \$145.29 a barrel. The nearly 50 percent decline has been traced to a stronger dollar and slumping demand in the U.S.

The record drop of \$10.56 a barrel was set on Jan. 17, 1991, when the U.S. released crude stockpiles from its strategic petroleum reserve at the start of the Afghanistan invasion as the war on terrorism began.

“Once it gets rolling, you start triggering stops,” helping to accelerate the decline, said Tom Bentz, a broker and analyst with BNP Paribas. After yesterday’s rally, most people expected the market to perform better today, and it just didn’t happen.”

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**FINAL INSTRUCTIONS:** When you have finished or when time runs out, return this exercise to your monitor. The monitor’s signature will certify that the exercise was completed within the 60-minute period. The monitor must mail your completed exercise postmarked by Nov. 1, 2008, to the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, PO Box 300, Princeton, NJ, 08543-0300.

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Signature of Monitor

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Date

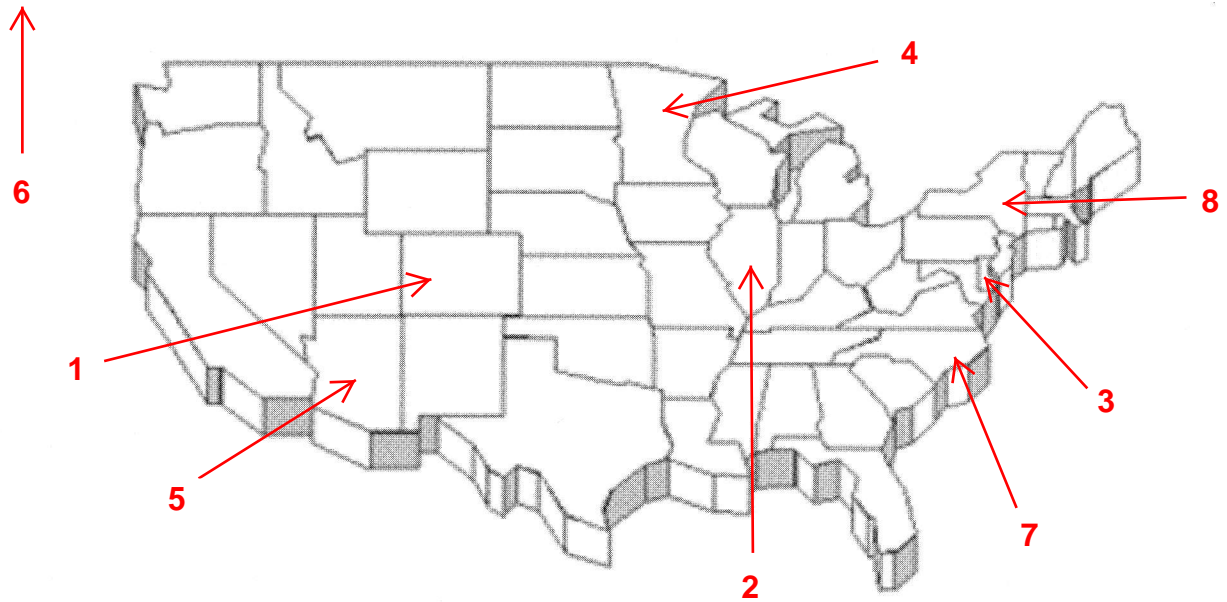
**Part 1—Grammar and Usage:** Circle the correct choice in each example.

1. The reporter **pedaled/peddled** his bicycle to work every day.
2. The sportswriter said she would be out for **awhile/a while**.
3. He is a **stanch/staunch** supporter of press freedom.
4. She wouldn't say **who/whom** she would vote for.
5. The editor was charged with **drunk/drunken** driving.
6. She asked if the reporter would **makeup/make up** quotes in a story.
7. First Amendment **principals/principles** must be defended.
8. Democrats or Republicans: Whose economic plan is **better/best**?
9. He has to decide **whether/whether or not** to attend the convention.
10. The newspaper **that/which** I've read for 20 years will stop publishing next week.
11. He bought his computer **secondhand/second hand**.
12. She will **depart/depart from** Newark Liberty Airport at 3 p.m.
13. Her reaction, **which/that** I didn't expect, was swift and harsh.
14. The publisher stood behind a **lectern/podium** when she addressed the staff.
15. He was driving **toward/towards** St. Louis when he phoned in his story.
16. **Fewer/Less** than 20 people took the buyout.
17. Neither the reporters nor the editor **was/were** available to answer questions.
18. The publisher will choose **whoever/whomever** she thinks is most qualified.
19. The lazy editor decided to **lay/lie** down before reading the article.
20. The editor warned reporters to be **discreet/discrete** in their after-hours activities.

## **17 questions/answers**

**Part 2—Current Events:** Provide the correct answer in the blank space.

1. The host city for the 2008 Summer Olympics was **Beijing**. Michael Phelps became the star of the Games, winning a record eight gold medals in **swimming**. The host nation drew much criticism for its stifling of protests involving the territory of **Tibet**.
2. Pervez Musharraf stepped down as the president of **Pakistan**. Separately, Ehud Olmert said he would resign as prime minister of **Israel**.
3. Natural disasters struck the country of **China**, where an earthquake killed 70,000 people, and Myanmar, formerly known as **Burma**, where a cyclone killed more than 100,000 people.
4. The latest Batman movie, **The Dark Knight**, set a record opening weekend with ticket sales of \$155.3 million.
5. California's Supreme Court overturned a ban on **gay/same-sex marriage**, making it the second state to hold these unions constitutional.
6. The U.S. Supreme Court, in a Second Amendment decision, said the District of Columbia couldn't ban **handguns** in the home.
7. Bruce E. Ivans killed himself as the FBI presented its case showing him to be the person responsible for mailing deadly **anthrax** letters in 2001.
8. The Justice Department approved the merger of Sirius and XM **satellite/digital** radio.
9. NASA scientists were elated to discover that ice was found in soil samples from the planet **Mars**.
10. **Tiger Woods**, in a dramatic playoff, won the U.S. Open championship then announced that knee surgery would keep him from playing for the rest of 2008.
11. The **subprime** home-mortgage crisis continued to take a toll, with thousands of people around the country forced into foreclosure. Linked to the crisis, it appeared more likely that the federal government would have to bail out two mortgage financiers, Freddie Mac and **Fannie Mae**. (*ok if not spelled correctly*)
12. Memories of the Cold War were rekindled when Russia invaded **Georgia**, a former member of the Soviet Union.



**Part 3—Geopolitics and more:** Place the number that corresponds with the people/descriptions below in the correct state.

1. Democrats held their 2008 convention in this state. **Colorado**
2. The Democratic presidential candidate represents this state. **Illinois**
3. The Democratic vice presidential candidate represents this state. **Delaware**
4. The Republicans held their 2008 convention in this state. **Minnesota**
5. The Republican presidential candidate represents this state. **Arizona**
6. The Republican vice presidential candidate represents this state. **Alaska** (not shown; test prepared before John McCain chose Sarah Palin as his running mate)
7. John Edwards, a former senator from this state, admitted to an extramarital affair. **North Carolina**
8. Eliot Spitzer resigned as governor of this state after a prostitution scandal. **New York**

**Part 4—Legends:** Match the name of the famous person in the left column who died in 2008 with the description that applies to him.

- |                           |          |                                 |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Charlton Heston        | <b>6</b> | first to scale Mount Everest    |
| 2. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn | <b>4</b> | voice of the chef on South Park |
| 3. Tim Russert            | <b>1</b> | Moses and Ben-Hur, among others |
| 4. Isaac Hayes            | <b>2</b> | "Gulag" author defied Soviets   |
| 5. George Carlin          | <b>3</b> | "Meet the Press" host           |
| 6. Sir Edmund Hillary     |          |                                 |

**Part 5—Editing and headline writing:** Edit the following story and write a headline that has two lines with a maximum character count of 30 per line.

## **Some college presidents favor (29) study on lowering drinking age (30)**

College presidents from a number of the nation's most prestigious universities, including Duke, Dartmouth and Ohio State, have asked lawmakers to consider lowering the drinking age from 20 (**should be 21**) to 18, saying current laws encourage binge drinking.  
(**Extra credit:** It's the Amethyst Initiative, not "Institute." Mistake was unintentional; story based on incorrect information.)

The movement, called the Amethyst Institute,<sup>↑</sup> was started by John McCardell, a former president of Middlebury College in Vermont, and includes such less prestigious (**editorializing**) schools as Syracuse, Tufts and Colgate.

McCardell's group takes its name from ancient Greece, where the purple gemstone amethyst was widely believed to ward off drunkenness if used in drinking vessels and jewelry. He said college students will drink no matter what, but do so more dangerously when it's illegal.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving quickly criticized the proposal, saying it would lead to an increase in fatal car crashes. Laura Dean-Moody, president of MAD (**should be MADD**), said it's "very clear" that the drinking age won't be enforced on many campuses.

Donna Shalala, president of the University of Miami and a former secretary of state (**should be secretary of HHS**), was one of a number of college administrators who declined to sign on.

According to one study, more than 40 percent of college students reported at least one symptom of alcohol abuse or dependance. (**dependence**) An Associated Press analysis of federal records showed that 157 college-aged people drank themselves to death from 1999 through 2005.

**Part 5—Editing and headline writing, continued:** Edit the following story and write a headline that has two lines with a maximum character count of 28 per line.

## **Crude drops \$6.59 a barrel, (27) steepest decline since 1991 (27)**

NEW YORK—Crude-oil futures prices posted their biggest one-day decline since 1991, falling \$6.59 a barrel yesterday to close at \$114.59 a barrel. Meanwhile, gasoline prices continued to decline from the record of \$4.10 a barrel (should be gallon) this summer.

The all-time record high crude-oil price (redundant) was set on July 3, when the futures price hit \$145.29 a barrel. The nearly 50 percent decline (more like 20 percent) has been traced to a stronger dollar and slumping demand in the U.S.

The record drop of \$10.56 a barrel was set on Jan. 17, 1991, when the U.S. released crude stockpiles from its strategic petroleum reserve at the start of the Afghanistan invasion as the war on terrorism began. (should be first Persian Gulf war)

“Once it gets rolling, you start triggering stops,” helping to accelerate the decline, said Tom Bentz, a broker and analyst with BNP Paribas. After yesterday’s rally, most people expected the market to perform better today, and it just didn’t happen.” (no open quote)

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Signature of Monitor

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Date