



**The Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, Inc.  
2008 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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/07

**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.**

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

1. The publisher's memo had the desired affect/effect on the staff.
2. The photographer, who/whom the exhibit was dedicated to, couldn't attend.
3. The reporter was notorious for flaunting/flouting her awards.
4. The paper's attempt to stanch/staunch the number of errors proved futile.
5. The reporter focused on who/whom he thought would win the election.
6. Neither paper attempted to promote its/their columnists.
7. The publisher was the target of frequent gibes/jibes because of his attire.
8. The media hoard/horde descended on the victim's apartment.
9. The main criteria/criterion for a reporter is accuracy.
10. The newspaper incorrectly reported the verdict that the jury handed down/up.
11. The publisher said women are/were still paid less than men in the newsroom.
12. The staff didn't know what to imply/infer from the editor's speech.
13. He was the publisher who/whom everyone admired.
14. Neither the editors nor the publisher was/were pleased with the article.
15. Reporters found that the editor was as unapproachable as they/them.
16. The editor recently emigrated/immigrated from Canada to the United States.
17. The publisher will select whoever/whomever she decides is the most qualified.
18. The *Times* is among the few papers that do/does respond to reader comments.
19. He agreed to lend/loan me his computer.
20. No farther/further discussion would be tolerated, the publisher declared.

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

1. Thirty-two people, and the gunman, were killed on the campus of \_\_\_\_\_, in Blacksburg, the worst gun rampage in U.S. history.
2. Radio talk-show host \_\_\_\_\_ was fired from CBS and MSNBC after he called members of the Rutgers University women's basketball team "\_\_\_\_\_".
3. Six miners and three rescue workers were killed in a mine disaster in the state of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Thirteen people were killed when a bridge collapsed in the city of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. agreed to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ for \$5 billion.
6. After eight years on HBO, the New Jersey mobsters featured in \_\_\_\_\_ went off the air, with the ending criticized by many viewers.
7. J.K. Rowling produced the seventh and final installment in the \_\_\_\_\_ book series. The book sold 8.3 million copies in the first 24 hours it was on sale in the United States.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ handed over the leadership of the Labor Party in Britain to Gordon Brown, ending a 10-year run as prime minister.
9. In \_\_\_\_\_, Nicolas Sarkozy was elected president, ending the hope of Segolene Royal to become the nation's first female president.
10. 2007 wasn't a good year for professional sports in the United States. Atlanta Falcons quarterback \_\_\_\_\_ pleaded guilty to federal charges concerning dog fighting; Tim Donaghy, a referee in the \_\_\_\_\_, was cited for gambling-related issues, and \_\_\_\_\_ broke baseball's home run record amid accusations that he had used performance-enhancing drugs.
11. North Carolina's attorney general declared three former lacrosse players at \_\_\_\_\_ innocent of all charges relating to sexual-assault charges.
12. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected school assignment plans in Louisville and Seattle that were based on \_\_\_\_\_ as the bottom-line determinant.
13. Beleaguered U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Alberto Gonzales resigned from his post after months of criticism about his performance in office.
14. In other Bush administration news, Tony Snow, a former Fox News anchor and political analyst, stepped down as White House \_\_\_\_\_.



**Part 3—Geopolitics:** Place the numbers that correspond with the descriptions of these potential presidential candidates with the states they represent/ed.

1. Hillary Clinton represents this state in the Senate.
2. Mitt Romney served as governor of this state.
3. Bill Richardson serves as the governor of this state.
4. John McCain represents this state in the Senate.
5. Barak Obama is a senator from this state.
6. Rudy Giuliani served as mayor of a city in this state.
7. John Edwards served as a senator from this state.
8. Fred Thompson represented this state in the Senate.

**Part 4—Legends:** Match the name of the famous person in the left column who died in 2007 with the description that applies to them.

- |                       |   |                                    |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Arthur Schlesinger | — | legendary Grambling football coach |
| 2. James Brown        | — | legendary tenor                    |
| 3. Luciano Pavarotti  | — | legendary fundamentalist preacher  |
| 4. Jerry Falwell      | — | legendary “godfather of soul”      |
| 5. Boris Yeltsen      | — | legendary historian                |
| 6. Eddie Robinson     |   |                                    |

**Part 5—Editing and headline writing:** Edit the following story and write a headline that has three lines with a maximum character count of 27 per line.

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CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.—Republican Sen. John Warner, a key figure in the debate over the war in Iraq, said he will not seek a sixth term in 2008.

His departure gives the Democrats a better chance to capture control of the Senate next year, when Republicans have to defend 32 seats compared with only 12 held by Democrats.

The North Carolina senator, a former chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said after a recent trip to Iran that President Bush should begin bringing troops home by Christmas. If Bush refused, Warner said, he would consider supporting anti-war legislation.

Warner said, “By taking this action, no one can say politics is going to dictate in one way or another how I’m going to decide to speak out on what’s in the best interests of this nation. And I’m going to do that.”

Analysts said the GOP nomination battle would be between former Gov. John Gilmore and U.S. Rep. Thomas M. Davis. The most likely Democratic contender is former Gov. Mark R. Warner.

Part 5, editing, continued on back page

(The official Dow Jones test folds into sections; hence, the need for the directional guide above.)

**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 26 per line.

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WASHINGTON—The Bush administration announced a series of proposals designed to help families keep their homes in the face of rapidly rising home mortgage rates.

President Bush, flanked by Alphonso Jackson, the Housing and Urban Development secretary, and Treasury Secretary Alan Greenspan, said, “The government has a role to play, but it is limited.”

Two million people with so-called “sub-prime” mortgages will see the interest rates on their loans rise to 7.5 percent from 5.5 percent over the next six months. An administration official said the two percent increase in rates would probably force some 500,000 borrowers into foreclosure proceedings.

“Our plan would provide aid to about 80,000 homeowners, well below the 20 percent who would be adversely affected by the rate increase,” the official said. But, unfortunately, there is no single solution to the problem,” he said.

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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, 2007, 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