

JUNE 2024

CRITICAL THINKING NOODLER



If You Ran Things

News from Friday, May 31, 2024

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There's a new addition to American history books. On Friday, May 31st, Donald Trump became the first former US president convicted of a crime. He was found guilty of hiding payments made to keep an embarrassing story from being published during his 2016 campaign. The verdict doesn't legally stop him from running for president again. It could, however, be a political hurdle for some voters. Mr. Trump will be sentenced on July 11, just days before the start of the Republican National Convention on July 15th.

This story has many people wondering: what are the requirements to become president in the United States? Research the U.S. Constitution to find out. Then, share your opinion: if you were in charge of the election, would you change, add, or remove any requirements? Be sure to explain your thinking.

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Test It!

News from Thursday, May 23rd

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A recent study shows that what you eat can make a big difference in how you think and feel. The study, conducted by the journal *Nature Mental Health*, asked participants to rank their preference for 140 foods and beverages. Those who liked a wide variety of foods showed fewer symptoms of anxiety and mental distress as well as better cognitive health. The findings suggest people focus on eating and enjoying a balanced diet that includes a broad array of vegetables, fruits, cereals, nuts, seeds, “moderate” dairy, eggs and fish.

How does what you eat affect the way you think and feel? Design an experiment that tracks how eating different types of food affects your emotions and your performance in school or on hard tasks.

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Expand It!

News from Tuesday, May 28th

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Great Smoky Mountains National Park is finding new ways to make the outdoors enjoyable for everyone — including people with disabilities. The park launched 3 adaptive outings last year that were so successful, this summer they're offering seven, starting next month. Some of the special equipment available include three-wheel off-road trikes for someone with balance issues, hand-cycle mountain bikes for cyclists without leg mobility, and kayaks with outriggers to prevent tipping.

Think about your favorite outdoor physical activity. Why is it important to make it accessible to people with disabilities? What are your ideas for adapting the activity so that more people can enjoy it?

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Design It!

News from Wednesday, May 22nd

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Professional basketball player Caitlin Clark has a new deal with “Wilson” for a signature line of basketballs. The last player to sign such a deal was Michael Jordan in 1984. Caitlin’s contract includes three different basketball designs and other Caitlin-Wilson products. The first basketball released is white and gold with personalized laser engravings celebrating Clark’s best on-court moments.

Imagine that you are in charge of designing a new signature line of sports gear. What piece of sports equipment would you design, and who would they be inspired by? Draw your design in the space below.

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Imagine!

News from Friday, May 10th

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A 43-year-old teacher in San Jose, California recently completed a remarkable accomplishment: visiting all 7 continents and all 193 UN-recognized countries in the world. Lucy Hsu was passionate about geography from an early age, but she didn't get her first passport until she was 23. Her first international destination was London and the last was Syria. Since international travel can be expensive, Lucy does her research to cut costs and volunteers while staying with local families. Now that she's accomplished this dream, Lucy's next goal is to travel on a cargo ship.

Imagine that you could travel to every country in the world. Where would you go first? What type of experiences would you want to have in each country? In the space below, write a journal entry from your first day in a new country. Be sure to describe what you saw and felt.

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