

## ITGS Summer Reading Challenge

(The following is a modified version of <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/05/24/student-challenge-the-times-as-your-summer-reading-2/> )

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I know, I know: the phrase “summer reading” conjures images of plodding through an assigned book while your friends are at the beach — then “exploring its themes” in an essay the first week back to school.

I’d like to offer a challenge with a little more freedom of choice, both in what you read and in how you write about it. And the editors at the *New York Times* Learning Network will reward the best, most interesting writers by featuring them on the blog.

So from now until the end of August, I invite you to visit the *New York Times* weekly to share the articles, columns, blog posts, photos, graphics, videos and podcasts about information technology in a global society that you’ve found interesting, and blog why you chose them.

You can start right now if you want by [posting your first answer here](#) before Friday June 11<sup>th</sup>. (The **latest you can start** and still make your deadlines is July 26<sup>th</sup> --why wait, get started today!)

The editors at the *New York Times* Learning Network regularly read through all the comments and pull out a favorite. Then they’ll highlight that comment in a special post, just as they did for their [previous Student Challenge](#).

So whether you were moved by an [article](#), amused by an [essay](#), bowled over by a [photo](#), irked by an [editorial](#), intrigued by a [feature](#), or inspired by a [how-to](#), blog about what got your attention and why. They’re open to pretty much any response that follows their [commenting rules](#).

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### Q. Wait, how does this work?

A. They’ll post the same [Student Opinion](#) question every Monday all summer long at (<http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/category/student-opinion/>). You can scroll down to see a link to: **“What Interested You Most in The Times This Week?”** That’s where you should post your picks (and reasons why) anytime until the following Monday. Then they’ll close that post and open a new one with the same question.

Feel free to participate each week.

You can choose from anything related to information technology issues published in the print paper or on [NYTimes.com](#) in 2010. (And yes, [videos](#), [graphics](#), [slide shows](#) and [podcasts](#) count: [“Reading” in the 21st century](#) includes getting information from all these sources.)

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### Q. What are the rules?

A. The challenge is to publish five thoughtful ITGS blog responses between now and the last week of August in response to **“What Interested You Most in The Times This Week?”** to find that place, go to the [Student Opinion](#) section and scroll down until you find it.

Each response should be **400 words or fewer**. (To check, you can paste yours into an online word-count tool like [this one](#) before you submit it.)

Use your **first name** followed by **–ITGS** so I can find your work. First names only are in accordance with the [privacy rules](#), but add your age and hometown if you like. Make sure to provide the URL(s), or Web address(es), of the *Times* material you choose so that others can find them easily. As soon as you post a blog, send me an email at [mbrownstone@bsge.org](mailto:mbrownstone@bsge.org)

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**Q. When should I check to see whether they’ve featured my comment as a “favorite”?**

**A.** Because they don’t yet know how many responses they’ll get, they don’t know how many they’ll choose as “favorites,” or how often. For now, let’s just say that they’d love to get enough to publish at least one favorite every Friday all summer. And they’ll provide links to their favorites on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#), too.

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**Q. How will my work be assessed for ITGS?**

**A.** Your writing will be assessed for **ITGS** according to the effort you make to write about information technology news (You can choose information technology topics from anything published in the print paper or on [NYTimes.com](#) in 2010—[videos](#), [graphics](#), [slide shows](#) and [podcasts](#) count the same as articles. So whether you were inspired by [tech news](#), moved by an [article](#), amused by an [essay](#), bowled over by a [photo](#), irked by an [editorial](#), intrigued by a [feature](#), or inspired by a [how-to](#), blog about what got your attention and why that interested you that week.

**For credit in ITGS, you must choose IT related items.**

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**Q. Can I write about other *Times* items that interest me?**

**A.** You may blog as often as you like about any topic you are interested in for your own pleasure, however, **to get credit for ITGS** you must **follow the rules**.

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So, students, start reading The Times in print or online. If you’re reading online, you might begin with the [home page](#), the [most popular list](#), a [keyword search](#), [Times Topics](#) or the [blogs](#), or you might just click around until you find something about information technology that gets your attention. Then come tell us [what interested you most and why](#).

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### How Will I Be Assessed?

<b>ATL Skills Assessed</b>	
You will be assessed on your effort in each of the following three ATL skills.	
<b>Study Practices:</b> follows the rules and meets deadlines (five posts, each in a different week— <b>last post by Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup></b> )	
<b>Communication:</b> Your blog post answers the question, “What interested you most and why?” Content is thoughtful and thorough. Language usage is appropriate for <i>New York Times</i> readers between 13-21, use of slang or colloquialisms (if used) is thoughtful and well-chosen; spelling, grammar, punctuation is checked before posting.	
<b>Critical Thinking:</b> Your blog post on selected news item is an opinion piece that must meet the intellectual standards: 1) clarity, 2) accuracy, 3) precision, 4) relevance, 5) depth, 6) breadth, 7) logic, 8) significance and 9) fairness.	

Equivalent Scale to Determine Overall Level of Achievement																			
NNN 0	NND 0	NNP 0	NNC 0	NDD 1	NDP 2	DDD 2	NDC 3	NPP 3	DDP 3	DPP 4	DDC 4	NPC 4	NCC 4	DPC 4	PPP 5	PPC 5	DCC 6	PCC 6	CCC 7*

<b>C</b> Complete	<b>P</b> Partial	<b>D</b> Limited but developing	<b>N</b> Not yet meeting standards
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**\*BONUS** if the *NY Times* chooses your post as a “favorite” you automatically get a 7 on that one.

## **Intellectual Standards Are Used to Assess Thinking**

<b>Clarity</b>	<b>Could you elaborate further? Could you give me an example? Could you illustrate what you mean?</b>
<b>Accuracy</b>	<b>How could we check on that? How could we find out if that is true? How could we verify or test that?</b>
<b>Precision</b>	<b>Could you be more specific? Could you give me more details? Could you be more exact?</b>
<b>Relevance</b>	<b>How does that relate to the problem? How does that bear on the question? How does that help us with the issue?</b>
<b>Depth</b>	<b>What factors make this a difficult problem? What are some of the complexities of this question? What are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?</b>
<b>Breadth</b>	<b>Do we need to look at this from another perspective? Do we need to consider another point of view? Do we need to look at this in other ways?</b>
<b>Logic</b>	<b>Does all this make sense together? Does your first paragraph fit in with your last? Does what you say follow from the evidence?</b>
<b>Significance</b>	<b>Is this the most important problem to consider? Is this the central idea to focus on? Which of these facts are most important?</b>
<b>Fairness</b>	<b>Do I have any vested interest in this issue? Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?</b>