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Standardized Testing

“Attending this college is my dream.” This is a statement many times said by excellent, ambitious students. Even though the work ethic is present from these students, sometimes they are still not accepted. Since standardized test scores are taken into account when deciding a student's fate at a particular school, many students who have the work ethic and motivation are not accepted because their test scores do not meet the standards. This is a problem among many universities throughout the United States. Standardized tests must not be used to determine a student's educational future because of their lack to provide valuable information about a student. Standardized tests are also inaccurate because of the large amount of stress and pressure placed on students. Many people say that standardized tests are the only fair way to measure someone's aptitude. What these people do not consider is that wealthy people who can afford tutors and "testing coaches" will have children who score higher on the test just because of the testing strategies they have learned from the tutors. Standardized testing in the United States must be obliterated.

Standardized tests must not be used to determine a student's educational future. Everything about a person cannot be determined in a sole test. A standardized test does not determine someone's work ethic, self-motivation, or actual knowledge. “They do not measure the ability to think deeply or creatively in any field” (What's Wrong With Standardized Tests 1). When a standardized test is used to determine someone's educational future, including college

admissions and scholarships, but the test does not determine one's actual ability to think, should it really be used to make decisions in these high stakes circumstances? These tests are not just used by a few colleges for admissions. "Approximately 78 percent of schools consider standardized test scores to be considerably important but they evaluate them in conjunction with your transcripts" (Are Test Scores Still Important College Admission Requirements 1). Even though a person's transcripts are taken into account, the standardized test scores will still hold an influence of whether or not a person is accepted into college. A single test must not be a factor in determining someone's educational future. Standardized testing must be eradicated because the test does not provide adequate information about students.

Standardized tests are inaccurate due to the amount of stress and pressure put upon the students. During the week of standardized testing, many students become very stressed and feel the pressures from the school to perform at their best. "Standardized tests provoke considerable anxiety among students that seems to increase with their age and experience" (Edelstein1). As students become older and the tests become more and more important, they are forced to deal with more stress. For any student it would be almost impossible to not feel this stress about a single test that would determine their entire future. Feeling this stress can have many side effects that could affect how a student feels and tests on the testing day. Some of these side effects of stress can include "disturbed sleep patterns, tiredness, worry, irregular eating habits, increased infections, and inability to concentrate" (Edelstein 1). With all of these stresses, it is obvious that a student will not be able to perform to the best of their ability when the time to test comes. Standardized testing must be abolished in order to relieve students of the testing stress.

Many people say that standardized tests are the only way to measure the knowledge and aptitude of students. Since everyone is taking the same test and the test is graded usually by a

machine, there is nothing that will affect the test score besides the student taking the test. What people who have this point of view do not consider is that the amount of income a family has can affect the test scores. "Higher income families are investing more money and time in their children which can translate into extra classes and activities, or tutors"(Brooke 1). Many students who have the money to afford tutors or "testing coaches" will score better despite their real knowledge. These "testing coaches" will not teach them any new knowledge at all, but instead teach them how to beat the test. These skills taught to the students by the tutors have a direct correlation to their test scores. "The gap in test scores between the higher income and low-income children has grown by about 40 percent" (Brooke 1). If these lower income students could also have these tutors, then their test scores would be very close or the same as the wealthy students. These standardized tests must be terminated because of their lack to provide a fair way to determine the aptitude between all students.

Standardized testing is becoming more and more popular each year across America. Even though it is becoming more popular, it does not mean that testing is a good thing. Standardized tests contain inaccurate information because of the large amounts of stress and pressure the students experience before, during, and after the test. It is once believed that these tests are the only fair way to measure someone's aptitude. But with wealthy parents hiring personal tutors to "coach" their child, the child receives a higher test score. This shows how unfair standardized testing is for students who cannot afford personal tutors. Not only this, but the test lacks to measure important skills including creativity, motivation, and problem solving. Since standardized tests are unfair and do not demonstrate a student's true and important abilities, they should not be used to determine their future. As stated by current first lady Michelle Obama: "If my future were determined just by my performance on a standardized test, I wouldn't be here, I

guarantee you that" (Standardized Quotes 1). If Michelle Obama did not score very high on a standardized test but she can still achieve great things including being first lady, starting national campaigns, and graduating from Harvard, then what is a high score on a standardized test even proving?

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