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**Standardized Testing**

Since the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, standardized testing has been a main standard of measuring student achievement. However, there are many factors that make standardized testing an unfair standard of measurement. Standardized tests should not be used to measure aptitude because they create stress for students, cause teachers to “teach to the test,” and make students who are not in tests’ targeted population to struggle.

School causes a lot of stress on students, and standardized tests will cause even more. Stress is caused by

When testing season approaches, many teachers will start to change the way they teach to help their students do better on standardized tests. For example, my 7th grade English teacher started to teach grammar rather than reviewing Shakespeare because of the upcoming MSA standardized test. According to a study conducted by the Center of Education Policy in 2007, 44% of schools have reduced the time spent on science, social studies, and the arts by an average of 145 minutes per week in order to focus on reading and math. This way, the students will do better on the standardized tests.

Some of the more popular standardized tests such as SAT or ACT may try to make the test fair for everyone. However, these tests aren’t completely fair to everyone. Students all have different backgrounds, and to write a test for people who have certain experiences would be unfair to those who had a different background. Sometimes, poor people who take these standardized tests will be asked to answer questions about things that the test makers assume that everyone knows. For example, if an orphan were to read a passage on the SAT about a flight on an airplane, he would probably miss questions containing vocabulary such as PA system, or flight attendant. According to Fox News, nearly 13,000 African-American high school seniors in Florida started a boycott against the president’s and the governor’s exam requirements, because they don’t have enough experience in the American culture.