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U2 Reflection Annotated Bibliography

Introduction:

Research Question: How does standardized testing help improve education in public schools?

The reason why I decided to choose this question is because it was something I hated going through in high school. It's been a significant issue for students, teachers, and parents because students need to know if they benefit from standardized tests or if they find it fitting or necessary for their lessons. Students are placed under a lot of pressure by parents and teachers when it comes to these tests because students are expected to pass since they are being prepped for it and it goes along with what they learned over the school year. Standardized testing requires a lot of studying, applying memorized formulas, understanding answers to reading comprehension, and defining words that would never be applied to real-world situations. At the end of the year, they have to cover material that may seem irrelevant to their students or curricular plan. So it might seem disruptive to teachers when students have to do constant testing.

I am interested in writing about standardized testing because it is one of the leading causes of why students are so stressed out in school. After all, this determines their future and would have a negative impact on their school experience if they don't pass. Many people support having it, and some don't because it is a vast concept of whether it benefits students.

The answers and information I expect to find in response to my question are articles and videos that tell both sides of how effective standardized testing is. Also, it would benefit students' futures because it plays an essential role in the grading system. Students undergo major stress and anxiety regarding standardized testing, affecting their overall well-being. If a certain number of students do well, they get rewarded for being good test takers, and penalizing those who do poorly is dehumanizing. It teaches students that test-taking skills will make or destroy their future.

Citation #1 : Adeli, Nikki. TEDxTalks. "What Standardized Tests Don't Measure | Tedxphiladelphia." *YouTube*, YouTube, 13 Nov. 2014, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woVtj8GH678>.

Summary:

According to the Ted Talk, shockingly, 44% of American students in grades 6–12 report that they do not feel valued at school. Students face many hardships trying to find their way around standardized tests because it is believed that these exams determine your national ranking. Nikki Adeli is discussing that there is more to schooling and life than trying to define yourself based on your rank on a test. There is nothing bad about testing in general, but it's the concept of testing that is negatively affecting students' mentality. We want to set good goals and purposes of schooling to help grow a citizen and not produce a good test taker because it's not something that is useful in the real world. Nikki Adeli explains what's best for students because we want students to do well so they can replace us one day and come up with policies to improve

society and the global economy. We want to be able to apply what we learn in school to the outside world because that is what grows a citizen and that is going to prepare them to be future leaders of tomorrow. Students need to set high expectations in order to help them out because there are many times where we are going to fail and years where they are going to make mistakes and a mentor is needed along the way to help us create the future. To make students our future leaders of tomorrow is by making them the leaders of today, which is only done by investing into the present. However, by investing into the present then sure enough the future will take care of itself.

Reflection:

I strongly agree with Adeli because students are not robots and they are highly stressed and have anxiety due to these standardized testing. Students should be more valued than being defined based on their rank on a test. The concept of standardized testing has gotten out of hand because of the way it is administered. Students should not be so stressed at such a young age because they are the future.

Quote: “I don’t want to say that tests are bad, I am saying the concept of what tests have become is bad, it magnified it's become a curriculum that our aim is to do well on testing. However, the first reason we implemented tests is for our students to do well in the world, but I can list all the negative effects.” (11:09)

Citation #2 : Aydeniz, & Southerland, S. A. (2012). A National Survey of Middle and High School Science Teachers’ Responses to Standardized Testing: Is Science Being

Devalued in Schools? *Journal of Science Teacher Education*, 23(3), 233–257.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10972-012-9266-3>

Summary:

According to this article, the study averaged out American high school and middle school science teachers' feelings toward using standardized testing for accountability; to show their reasoning for their attitudes and the impact of standardized testing on their educational and assessment practices. A total of 161 science teachers participated in this study. Data has shown that based on the teacher's responses from the questionnaires conducted, including nine-item scale questions and two items that were open-ended. The research indicated that science teachers have mixed feelings towards the administration of standardized tests and using their accountability purposes. The data has shown that only 20.5% of the participants thought that giving students standardized tests would help them learn more. Then, 19% had a neutral feeling about the impact of standardized testing on student learning. Lastly, 60.5% of the participants don't believe that administering standardized tests would enhance students' ability to learn science.

Reflection:

I agree with this article because many teachers see that standardized testing changes their overall teaching material and would have to change it to accommodate it for standardized testing. Some teachers think it ruins their creativity and freedom because they can't teach what they want. Students do not learn anything from it, which I agree with because standardized testing teaches students how to become better test takers, and it does not come in handy in the real world. Teachers have believed that standardized testing does not improve students' ability to learn science because it only measures basic concepts covered in middle school, not what they have

taught in their courses. Standardized testing is unfair to students and teachers because the content that needs to be taught is not being covered because teachers need to follow the administration material to prepare students for the standardized test. Teachers and students are under pressure because it needs to be taught, and students need to understand the material being taught.

Quotation: One teacher said based on the evaluation: “I have concentrated on state standards and getting my students ready for the gateway test. This sometimes limits my freedom on doing things that will be more interesting and/or enriching for my students” (p 246)

Citation #3: Taylor, K. (2016, April 23). *Race and the Standardized Testing Wars*. The New York Times. Retrieved November 8, 2022, from <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/24/opinion/sunday/race-and-the-standardized-testing-wars.html>

Summary:

Standardized testing has created a lot of significant issues for parents, students, and teachers. Testing results were broken down by race, income, and disability status to evaluate students' tests and consider them reliable. Parents would refuse to have their children participate, which caused them to unintentionally choose to oppose attempts to enhance students' education. Standardized testing is considered racist because the families that were to be opting out were disproportionately white and middle class. Testing members viewed those opting out of standardized testing as coddling suburbanites. However, while arguing that urban parents, who had more serious concerns about the standard of their children's schools, supported the tests.

Opposition to standardized testing was proposed to be a form of white privilege. Many have been criticizing the tests and starting a rift with civil rights groups involving Black and Hispanic educators who support testing. Many have argued that the main focus on testing was based on struggling schools to cut back on improving programs like field trips and arts education. Students feel like their self-esteem is damaged based on the low scores they receive.

Many racially mixed high school students in Baltimore walked out of school and rallied to protest about their state exam. Schools with low scores were forced to close down, so they could have their attention on essential reading and math skills. Based on the "No Child Left Behind Act," schools were evaluated on their test scores, and if those grades had not improved, the school had to be closed. Students have felt like school is like jail, where you are not going to learn only to take a test. Students feel inferior to teachers to district officials because they are not taking on the responsibility for their failures but are sending low-income students the message that their poor performance is their fault.

Reflection:

I agree with this article; students are placed under a lot of stress and anxiety to do well on standardized tests. I went through the same thing where standardized testing was required, and I had to study significantly because the pressure was placed on me to do well like everyone else. Students feel like they are in jail and not in school because their test scores are the only thing that's valuable to the educators and district officials. Standardized testing is viewed to be racist because test scores are used to punish or even close schools, usually schools that have mostly black and brown students. However, with the pressure to increase test scores, students in

public schools get endless test prep, while students in whiter, more affluent schools are more likely to get creative problem-solving, arts, and recess.

Quotation: Near the middle of the article the author noted: “Others say that the tests are damaging to students’ self-esteem, because students interpret low scores as proof that they are inferior and destined to fail.” (p 2)

Conclusion:

Based on the research and resources I have evaluated, standardized testing has come out of hand and caused distress among students, teachers, and parents. Test-taking is generally okay for students because it helps determine their academic progress, what they know, what they can do, and what they need to improve on. However, the concept of testing has negatively impacted them and turned it into something detrimental to students' well-being. Educators and parents want what's best for their students because they are the future that will change society. Still, standardized testing has made students think that only their national ranking is what only counts and don't have any sense of value for themselves. It ruins their self-esteem and self-worth because of how stressful these tests are and what's expected of them. Standardized testing has been viewed to be racist and has a biased system because of the experiences of white and middle-class children. Many students have felt like school is like jail to them because they don't go to learn but only to take a test that seems to define them by the district administration. Standardized testing has mentally drained students because of the pressure and anxiety they experience from trying to pass.

Throughout my research, I found out that many educators supported standardized testing and thought it was beneficial to students' learning and the teaching of their course material. However, I agree with some aspects of it. Still, I don't believe that students learn anything from

standardized testing because they are only taught techniques to successfully pass the test, which only creates a good test taker. This research has deepened my understanding of my question. After all, it has shown how standardized testing can ruin students' self-esteem and how it needs to be fixed because it does not help students in the real world. I learned how students and teachers believe that standardized testing gets rid of their creativity and how it causes pressure on them for it to be successfully taught and grasped. This is important because students and teachers should speak up and defend themselves on how draining standardized testing is. It can cause students to tune out and drop out, convince schools to push them out, and even drive teachers to leave. Overall, high-stakes testing will hurt students and cause stress and depression. The people that need to hear about my research are NYC DOE, council board directors (system of education), educators, and students because standardized testing needs to be fixed.