

# The Inside Scoop on Testing

"Not everything that counts can be counted and not everything that can be counted counts." Albert Einstein

"Every hour spent on such exam preparation is an hour not spent helping students to become critical, creative, curious learners." Alfie Kohn

"I do not think that testing is necessary, or useful, or even excusable. At best, testing does more harm than good; at worst, it hinders, distorts, and corrupts the learning process." John Holt

"Anyone can confirm how little the grading that results from examinations corresponds to the final useful work of people in life." Jean Piaget

"Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud." Sophocles

"Be in possession of every detail of the operation, use, and origin of these tests, in order to better equip yourself as an active agent against the insidious propaganda which seeks to demonstrate that the Negro is intellectually and physically incapable of assuming the dignities, rights, and duties which devolve upon him as a member of modern society." Horace Bond, 1924

"In America, no child should be left behind. Every child should be educated to his or her own full potential." President George Bush

"If more testing were the answer to the problems in our schools, testing would have solved them a long time ago." Bill Goodling, chair of House Education Committee

"Standardized tests equal standardized students!" Amanda Parsons, a sophomore from Boulder, CO wearing red arm bands and a student ID sticker number 142337 at a protest of nearly 200 students

"I don't think there's any way to build a multiple-choice question that allows students to show what they can do with what they know." Roger Farr, professor of Education at Indiana University

"There were times I'd be reading a paper every ten seconds...you could put a number on these things without even reading the paper." Anonymous worker at test scoring company in North Carolina that gives a \$200 bonus to workers after 8000 papers

"Testing season is upon us, and a lot of kids are so nervous they're throwing up." Mickey Van Derwerker

"Too often, however, hasty judgments about test scores result in superficial responses to real educational issues." Kurt Landgraf, President of ETS

"It is time to end the obsession in Washington and elsewhere with standardized tests." Ralph Nader

"If social engineers had set out to invent a virtually perfect inequality machine, designed to perpetuate class and race divisions, and that appeared to abide by all requisite state and federal laws and regulations, those engineers could do no better than the present-day accountability systems already put to use in American schools." Peter Sacks

"Learning and teaching is messy stuff. It doesn't fit into bubbles. I don't think a simple pencil-and-paper test is going to capture what students know and can do." Michele Forman, named "Teacher of the Year" on 4/23/01 at a White House ceremony

"Testing improves education the same way that bombing promotes democracy." Steve Cohn, Education professor at Tufts University

"Teachers and students must always remain free to inquire, to study and to evaluate, to gain new maturity and understanding; otherwise our civilization stagnate and die." Chief Justice Earl Warren, 1957

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