

Directions: There are four parts to this assignment. Please read the instructions carefully.

Part 1: Choose a topic from the following list:

- **Social media:** Some people claim that frequent use of social media can have negative effects on teenagers who may already exhibit addictive behaviors or mental health disorders. Should social media use be restricted for all teens? What about teenagers who show no signs of disorders?
- **Ethical labor:** The United States has been opening factories in underdeveloped nations that offer dramatically low-paying jobs for extreme conditions and long hours. What effect does it have on the American economy? Is it ethical for the United States to continue this practice?
- **Video games:** Some say that the experience of controlling characters in violent video games can have an impact on the players' ability to control their anger in the real world. Do games' interactive qualities make them potentially more dangerous than films, books, or television? Should violent video games be banned or censored?
- **Gender-specific toys:** Gender-specific toys have been a widely accepted norm. What evidence is there to support or contradict the claim that boys and girls naturally prefer different toys and colors? Is there a benefit to promoting these differences? Should stores discontinue gender-based separations of toys on their shelves?
- **Exam efficacy:** Most states and school districts use standardized exams to determine a student's level of expertise in a subject. Is there a better way to test mastery in schools? Should exams be replaced with a different form of assessment?

Part 2: In a complete sentence, state your **position** on your chosen issue. This will be your thesis.

Standardized exams in school are not an efficient tool to measure student success because they do not take into account the full scope of a student, does not predict future success, as well as do not provide valued feedback on how to improve.

Part 3: Perform research to gather evidence **to support your position** (thesis). You need a total of six sources, along with quotes to support your claim, an explanation showing how the quote/evidence supports your position, and the full Modern Language Association (MLA) citation. Use the organizer below to organize your research.

Source Title and Author	Quotations from the Source to Support Your Claim	Connection Between Source and Claim	Citation
1. The Pros and Cons of Standardized Testing Bryan Nixon	<i>"There are many cases where students have demonstrated clear understanding within a subject or concept through various assessments, but aren't as skilled at taking multiple choice tests. Nevertheless, it can be hard on a student if they feel that they didn't perform as well as they'd like. In worst case scenarios, instead of determining the entire picture of learning through a review of all assessment data with their teachers, a student might determine their success based on a standardized test score that is taken once a year."</i>	When a student performs poorly on a test, it undermines their test-taking confidence; which hinders their ability to improve and achieve success when taking them again later on as they are in the mindset that they are not good enough to do well on the test. A negative mindset equals a negative outcome.	Nixon, Bryan. "The Pros and Cons of Standardized Testing." <i>Whitby School</i> , www.whitbyschool.org/passionforlearning/the-pros-and-cons-of-standardized-testing . Accessed 26 Sept. 2022.
2. 15 Reasons Why Standardized Tests Are	<i>"Standardized tests don't provide any feedback on how to perform better. The results aren't even given back to the</i>	Standardized tests do not provide insight as to what the student actually did wrong on	Armstrong, Thomas. "15 Reasons Why Standardized Tests Are Problematic." <i>ASCD</i> , www.ascd.org/blogs/15-reasons-why-standardized-tests-are-problematic . Accessed 26 Sept. 2022.

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Problematic Thomas Armstrong	<i>teachers and students until months later, and there are no instructions provided by test companies on how to improve these test scores."</i>	the test, which could be used to improve on future retakes. Feedback is essential for growth.	
3. Why Standardized Testing is Ineffective Justine Wheeler	<i>"Standardized testing also fails to provide feedback to help students improve their scores. The results of the test often do not come back until months later and they are not thorough enough for students to truly know what to work towards improving on."</i>	Feedback is an essential element that is required to grow and improve. Since testing companies do not communicate what one did wrong, they will not know what they need to do to improve from their mistakes to do better.	Wheeler, Justine. "Why Standardized Testing Is Ineffective." <i>The Green Pride</i> , 19 Apr. 2019, dhsnews.org/opinion/2019/04/09/why-standardized-testing-is-ineffective. Accessed 26 Sept. 2022
4. 20 Standardized Tests Pros and Cons Chris Drew	<i>"Lots of students struggle with test-taking and face anxiety when it comes to these types of assessments. Level of stress, mood and emotional state can all impact a person's ability when it comes to completing these kinds of assessments. As a</i>	Not everyone is a naturally born test taker. It is hard to compare everyone's success and ability as some may be better at taking a test than others, as well as perform better in other evaluation forms other than a standardized	Drew, Chris. "20 Standardized Tests Pros and Cons (2022)." <i>Helpful Professor</i> , 26 July 2022, helpfulprofessor.com/standardized-test-pros-cons. Accessed 26 Sept. 2022.

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	<i>result, it makes it difficult to know whether these tests are truly reflective of students' skills and competencies."</i>	test. You cannot compare success between two people simply because one is better at taking a test over the other.	
5. Test scores aren't always an accurate predictor of future success Don Bell	<i>"Studies have shown the standardized test data that has been utilized over the last decade to predict student success has only been accurately predicting 1 out of every 4 student's success at college. Still more research showed the bulk of predicting college success is not found in standardized test scores."</i>	This form of evaluation is not proficient in predict how a student may perform in the future. Research has shown that it has only successfully predicted it in very low numbers.	Bell, Don. "Test Scores Aren't Always an Accurate Predictor of Future Success." <i>PennLive</i> , 31 Mar. 2016, www.pennlive.com/opinion/2016/03/test_scores_arent_always_an_ac.html . Accessed 26 Sept. 2022.
6. Standardized Test Scores Are Not Predictors of Future Success	<i>"Standardized tests can only, at best, evaluate rote knowledge of math, science, and English. The tests do not evaluate creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, artistic</i>	Tests do not accurately measure one's full set of skills, as they only measure their capability in the given subject matter. Because of this, they can miss out on	"Standardized Tests Scores Are Not Predictors of Future Success" <i>ProCon</i> , 7 Dec. 2020, standardizedtests.procon.org/arguments/standardized-tests-measure-only-a-small-portion-of-what-makes-education-meaningful . Accessed 26 Sept. 2022.

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ProCon	<i>ability, or other knowledge areas that cannot be judged by scoring a sheet of bubbles filled in with a pencil."</i>	opportunities for things that apply to them simply because they were not proficient in non-related subject matter.	

Part 4: Create an **outline** using the following template and your work in Parts 1, 2, and 3. Strategically structure your argument and synthesize your research.

Write in complete sentences, but remember—you are not writing an entire essay; you are only PLANNING the essay using the outline template below.

I. Introduction

- A. Ever feel frustrated on how standardized tests do not evaluate who you are as a person? You're not alone.
- B. The current system of testing is at a crossroads, as standardized testing is hindering on students' abilities to succeed and flourish in life, for who they are.
- C. Standardized exams in school are not an efficient tool to measure a student's level of expertise in a subject because they do not take into account the full ability of a student, does not predict future success, as well as do not provide valued feedback on how to improve.

II. The full scope of a person is not taken into account

- A. Not all people take tests the same, some are much better test-takers than others.
- B. *"Lots of students struggle with test-taking and face anxiety when it comes to these types of assessments. Level of stress, mood and emotional state can all impact a person's ability when it comes to completing these kinds of assessments. As a result, it makes it difficult to know whether these tests are truly reflective of students' skills and competencies,"* (Drew).
- C. While test-taking may come easy to some, it is much harder for others. You cannot compare success between two people simply because one is better at taking a test over the other.

III. Tests do not accurately predict future success

- A. Standardized tests do not accurately predict one's future success, as they only measure specific skill sets.
- B. *"Standardized tests can only, at best, evaluate rote knowledge of math, science, and English. The tests do not evaluate creativity, problem solving, critical thinking, artistic ability, or other knowledge areas that cannot be judged by scoring a sheet of bubbles filled in with a pencil,"* (ProCon).
- C. As only specific skill sets are measured, how well someone may do later in life cannot be foreseen as only specific aspects of them are evaluated. How well someone will do in life cannot be predicted by how well they answer 15-word problems on a math test. As well, their scores can impact on whether or not they are "eligible" for future opportunities.

IV. Poor feedback from testing companies

- A. Testing companies do not provide clear feedback to help students improve.
- B. " *Standardized testing also fails to provide feedback to help students improve their scores. The results of the test often do not come back until months later and they are not thorough enough for students to truly know what to work towards improving on.*"
- C. Feedback is an essential element that is required to grow and improve. Since testing companies do not communicate what one did wrong, they will not know what they need to do to improve from their mistakes to do better.

V. Counterargument

- A. Standardized testing provides students with a fair and equal chance, as it is the same for all who take them.
- B. If everybody took tests the same way, then it would be fair. However not all people take tests the same way, as some "*students struggle with test-taking and face anxiety when it comes to these types of assessments,*" (Drew), and other complications that may affect their performance as opposed to other people where that would not be the case.

VI. Conclusion

- A. Standardized tests just do not properly evaluate students' success.
- B. Through inequality among test-taker types, poor skill evaluation, and a lack of proper and thorough feedback, students are not properly appraised and given the credit for the hard work they put in.
- C. Today we live in a world of change, with new opportunities on the rise each and every day. To give students the opportunities to succeed and flourish, they need to be evaluated in a way that captures their full self and potential. Without the proper adjustments to the current testing system, they will not get those chances. Without those chances, the world will greatly miss out.