

## LD Standardized Tests NEGATIVE Offcase Version 1b Fall 2019

As the Negative I believe the value in today's round is clear. Its "HUMAN RIGHTS" For without Human Rights individuals cannot enjoy life regardless of what part of the country they reside in or school they go to. My criterion for the debate is Justice. As Aristotle noted Justice is the concept of giving one his due and I believe every individual is denied true Justice if they are denied their Human Rights. I believe Standardized Tests do just that; they guarantee Justice!

### Observation I: Standardized Tests Key to Better Schools

#### A. Tests Can't be Bought

Quillette, March 13, 2019

Opponents of tests like to argue that tests primarily measure socioeconomic status and parental resources, but it's not true that rich parents unfairly distort the college admissions process by outspending other people on test prep. There's not a clear causal relationship between income and test scores, and there's no evidence that expensive test prep gets better results than cheap or free alternatives.

#### B. National Tests Help Guarantee Equal Access

again Quillette, March 13, 2019

When millionaires and celebrities attack the testing establishment, they pretend to do so on behalf of the marginalized and disadvantaged, but they really want to destroy the SAT because it is the only mechanism by which your kid can get into an elite college ahead of their kid. Even if you assume, for the purpose of argument, that Zoe Kazan is right in her claim that standardized tests give "a systemic leg up" to "upper middle class" applicants who can afford commercial prep services, what is the alternative?

Without some semblance of competitive admissions based on objective criteria like standardized test scores, a college like Yale becomes an exclusive nightclub and the admissions committee is just a bouncer.

<https://quillette.com/2019/03/13/standardized-testing-and-meritocracy/>

#### C. Tests Keep Admissions Fair and Open to All

Editorial, The Daily Bruin, March 5, 2019

However, standardized tests also have a number of advantages. Test scores allow universities to put applicants from various backgrounds with different academic and grading systems on a level playing field. This gives students with inflated or deflated high school GPAs a fair opportunity to demonstrate their skill sets and knowledge of core concepts expected of university admits.

The UC Academic Senate is in the process of reviewing the role of standardized testing in the admissions process, at the request of UC President Janet

Napolitano. Specifically, the academic task force is working toward determining the validity and usefulness of standardized test scores and high school GPAs in the admissions process.

But it's crucial standardized tests stay in place. Tests such as the SAT and ACT act as equalizers for applicants, making things fairer, especially for international students who come from various backgrounds and academic systems.

<https://dailybruin.com/2019/03/05/standardized-test-scores-are-a-necessary-assessment-to-equalize-uc-admissions/>

### III. Standardized Tests Key to Effective College Admissions

#### A. Test Optional Schools Still Want Tests!

US News October 2018

At New York University, for example, applicants aren't required to submit an ACT or SAT score. But they have to submit something, and other options include three Advanced Placement exam scores, three SAT subject test scores or three scores on higher-level International Baccalaureate exams.

"You can substitute the AP for SAT," Buckley says. "Everybody knows that, but fewer people take them because they're designed to be college courses. They don't increase equity."

Indeed, poor students and students of color have much less access to AP and IB classes than their wealthier, whiter peers.

#### B. Alternatives to Tests Won't Work

US News in October 2018 continues

"While I understand that colleges want to really look at expanding how they determine their admission process, there has to be some objective measure in there that helps them make that decision," says ACT's Montgomery. "The jury is still out, but we certainly believe that the ACT, and SAT for that matter, support a more holistic view of that readiness."

Montgomery says he also worries about the unintended consequence of eliminating college entrance exams.

"If more colleges continue to go that route, I worry that, if we don't have that object measure, then we will be admitting kids who aren't necessarily prepared for college, and after a year or so they decide to leave college with lots of debt and no degree," he says. "We are potentially on this slope that will have implications for student who enter college, find out they're not ready and leave with massive debt."

#### C. C. Grades Can't Be An Alternative and Aren't Accurate

Kevin Mahnken, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, September 19, 2018

Grade inflation — the phenomenon of large numbers of students receiving ever-higher grades in class, regardless of how much they've actually learned — is more prevalent in higher-income schools than less affluent ones, according to research released today by the Fordham Institute. Many pupils who received passing grades nevertheless failed to score proficient on their end-of-course exam for the same subject, the author found.

The study was authored by Seth Gershenson, an education economist at American University.

Fordham is a reform-oriented think tank that has issued influential publications warning against false notions of academic success common among American students.

The undeniable trend toward grade inflation has raised concerns in recent years, with high school graduation rates soaring around the country even as students make no comparable progress on benchmark tests like the National Assessment of Educational Progress. In a few high-profile examples, swaths of high schoolers have been granted diplomas despite falling far short of their schools' academic and attendance requirements.

<https://www.the74million.org/study-grade-inflation-more-prevalent-at-wealthy-schools-where-parents-have-greater-ability-to-game-the-system/>

Keep our system fair and just. VOTE Negative!

Extra evidence

## Poverty Destroys Society along with Human Rights

Poverties.org, May 2013,

The vicious cycles of poverty mentioned before mean that lifelong handicaps and troubles that are passed on from one generation to another. To name just a few of these hereditary plagues: no school or education, child labor to help the parents, lack of basic hygiene, transmission of diseases. Unemployment and very low incomes create an environment where kids can't simply go to school. As for those who can actually go to school, they simply don't see how hard work can improve their life as they see their parents fail at the task every day.

Other plagues associated with poverty:

- Alcohol & substance abuse, from kids in African slums to adults in the US, this is a very common self-destructing habit often taken as a way to cope with huge amounts of stress and... well, despair;
- Crippling accidents due to unsafe working environments (machinery in factories or agriculture) as well as other work hazards such as lead poisoning, pesticide poisoning, bites from wild animals due to lack of proper protection;
- Poor housing & living conditions, a classic cause of diseases;
- Water and food-related diseases, simply because the poor can't always afford "safe" foods.

In the end, poverty is a major cause of social tensions and threatens to divide a nation because of the issue of inequalities, in particular income inequality. This happens when wealth in a country is poorly distributed among its citizens. In other words, when a tiny minority has all the money.

The feature of a rich or developed country for example is the presence of a middle class, but recently we've seen even Western countries gradually losing their middle class, hence the increasing number of riots and clashes. In a society, poverty is a very dangerous factor that can destabilize and entire country. The Arab Spring is another good example, in all of the countries concerned, the revolts started because of the lack of jobs and high poverty levels. This has led to most governments being overthrown).

<http://www.poverties.org/about-poverties.html>

- See more at: <http://www.poverties.org/effects-of-poverty.html#sthash.vDPMFY2w.dpuf>

## Almost Half of Americans Live In Poverty

Salon. com, May 30, 2013

Since the recession, the disparities have continued to grow. An OECD report states that "inequality has increased by more over the past three years to the end of 2010 than in the previous twelve," with the U.S. experiencing one of the widest gaps among OECD countries. The 30-year decline in wages has worsened since the recession, as low-wage jobs have replaced formerly secure middle-income positions.

The IRS reports that the highest wage in the bottom half of earners is about \$34,000. To be eligible for food assistance, a family can earn up to 130% of the federal poverty line, or about \$30,000 for a family of four.

Even the Census Bureau recognizes that its own figures under-represent the number of people in poverty. Its Supplemental Poverty Measure increases, by 50%, the number of Americans who earn between one-half and two times the poverty threshold.

[http://www.salon.com/2013/05/30/half\\_of\\_americans\\_living\\_below\\_or\\_near\\_poverty\\_line\\_partner/](http://www.salon.com/2013/05/30/half_of_americans_living_below_or_near_poverty_line_partner/)

## Good Schools Are Key to Minority Progress

Michael Laracy, Huffington Post, April 10, 2010

As the leader of a school system in a privileged country, I know we cannot have the same conversation about poverty in developing nations as we can about urban and rural poverty in the United States. But when we ask what it will take to ensure that no child anywhere has to "beat the odds" to have viable future choices, the answer is the same whether we are in Washington, DC or in a brave Haiti enduring disaster from a poverty-stricken stance. The obstacle is not one of knowledge but of social and political will, with education as the lynchpin.

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mike-laracy/ending-poverty-through-ed\\_b\\_454034.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/mike-laracy/ending-poverty-through-ed_b_454034.html)



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