

### Annotated Bibliography

Churchill, Aaron. "Bless the Tests: Three Reasons for Standardized Testing." *The Thomas B.*

*Fordham Institute*, 18 Mar. 2015,

[edexcellence.net/articles/bless-the-tests-three-reasons-for-standardized-testing](http://edexcellence.net/articles/bless-the-tests-three-reasons-for-standardized-testing).

This source supports the argument for standardized testing. It lists three reasons why standardized testing is essential in the American school system. These three reasons are the tests' objectivity, comparability, and accountability. I chose this opinion piece because it gives the writer a look at the other side of the argument of standardized testing. This is a biased source because it is an opinion piece. Someone responding to the prompt could use this source to argue that standardized tests are necessary. They provide a way to compare students accurately using the same test. Grades are not good measurements of student achievement because different teachers are different graders. Some may be very lenient while others are extremely harsh. Standardized tests provide a way for colleges to see where students stand in comparison to other applicants coming from different schools. If these tests did not exist comparing student achievement would not be possible.

Harris, Phillip, et al. "Standardized Tests Do Not Effectively Measure Student Achievement."

*Standardized Testing*, edited by Dedria Bryfonski, Greenhaven Press, 2012. At Issue.

*Opposing Viewpoints in*

*Context*, [link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ3010478218/OVIC?u=lom\\_fordson&xid=1643c](http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/EJ3010478218/OVIC?u=lom_fordson&xid=1643c028)

028. Accessed 18 Feb. 2018. Originally published as "Chapter 3: The Tests Don't

Measure Achievement Adequately," *The Myths of Standardized Tests: Why They Don't*

*Tell You What You Think They Do*, 2011, pp. 33-45.

This source is against the argument for standardized testing. It asserts that standardized tests do not effectively measure student achievement. The author defines what student achievement is and does not limit the definition to academics. He says that student achievement is also made up of their personality and the quality of their character. I chose this source because it could be useful to someone writing for the argument against standardized testing and is reliable. Someone using this source could argue that standardized tests only measure one aspect of a student: academics. Academics are not the only thing that make up a person, it is only one aspect of them. But standardized tests only measure academics and neglect other things a student may be gifted in. Examples could include art, music or sports. Every student is different, they have different strengths, and standardized tests particularly favor students whose strength is academics.

Kohn, Alfie. "Standardized Testing and Its Victims." *Alfie Kohn*, 19 Jan. 2015,

[www.alfiekohn.org/article/standardized-testing-victims/](http://www.alfiekohn.org/article/standardized-testing-victims/).

This source is against the use of standardized testing. It's purpose is to list the people who standardized tests neglect and discriminate against and describe the reasons why standardized testing is wrong. The author talked about how minorities and low income students do worse on these tests and why we shouldn't use them as a measure of intelligence. The excerpt I used from this source was a paragraph describing the growing number of professionals leaving the field of education because of the field's increased focus on standardized testing. I chose this source so that writers writing for the argument against standardized testing can use it as a piece of evidence in their essay. It is a reliable source because it comes from an author who is a very well known professor. He has written many books on the issue and has received lots of positive feedback. If a student decides to incorporate this source into their essay, they could say that standardized

testing has shifted the focus of education in America from the simple pursuit of knowledge to obtaining a single test score. This has made many students and teachers lose their passion for education because it has devalued the need for passion and enthusiasm in the classroom.

McIver, Samantha, and Joshua Palackal. "For and against Standardized Tests: Two Student Perspectives : Speak Easy : Education." *WHYY*, 8 June 2015, [whyy.org/articles/for-and-against-standardized-tests-two-student-perspectives/](http://whyy.org/articles/for-and-against-standardized-tests-two-student-perspectives/).

This source addresses both sides of the argument of standardized testing. The excerpt I used was an essay written by a seventh grader that talked about her perspective on standardized testing. She was very supportive of it. Her main points were that standardized tests are a good measure of student achievement and that they are good preparation for college. I chose this source so that writers responding to the prompt can use it in their argument for standardized testing. This source is very biased and not at all credible because it is an opinion piece written by a seventh grader. Someone responding to the prompt could use this source to make the argument that standardized tests are not biased towards any students. They are graded by a machine that does not have any favorite students and cannot discriminate against minorities or students of any disadvantaged background.

Alcocer, Paulina. "History of Standardized Testing in the United States." *NEA*, [www.nea.org/home/66139.htm](http://www.nea.org/home/66139.htm).

This source can be used to address the argument for standardized testing in the United States. It is a timeline of the history of standardized testing in the U.S. I chose this source so that students with standardized testing can use the history of standardized testing in their argument. This source is reliable because it is provided by the National Education Association, which is a well

known, respected organization. Someone using this source in their argument could argue that because standardized testing has been apart of the American education system for so long, it should not be removed. The American education system is one of the best in the world, and has used standardized testing throughout its history. This serves to show that standardized testing is a good thing that has positively impacted our education system.

Popham, James. "Why Standardized Tests Don't Measure Educational Quality." *Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development*,

[www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/mar99/vol56/num06/Why-Standardized-Tests-Don%27t-Measure-Educational-Quality.aspx](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/mar99/vol56/num06/Why-Standardized-Tests-Don%27t-Measure-Educational-Quality.aspx).

This source addresses the argument against standardized testing. It's aim is to show that standardized tests do not measure educational quality. This is shown through the citation of a study done by Michigan State University that shows that the topics tested for on standardized tests are not aligned with what is supposed to be taught and emphasized in the classroom. I chose this source because students responding to the prompt can use segments from the text as evidence in their arguments. It is a reliable source because it uses studies to support the argument against standardized testing. Someone responding to the prompt could use this source to come to the conclusion that standardized tests are not for everyone. One test cannot possibly measure the achievement of all American students. Because these students are taught by different teachers, that emphasize different topics.

"Pros and Cons of Standardized Testing." *Columbia University*, 2013,

[worklife.columbia.edu/files\\_worklife/public/Pros\\_and\\_Cons\\_of\\_Standardized\\_Testing\\_1.pdf](http://worklife.columbia.edu/files_worklife/public/Pros_and_Cons_of_Standardized_Testing_1.pdf).

This source is addressing both sides standardized testing: the pros and the cons. The author has provided six pros and seven cons. He/she wants the reader to understand both sides of the argument before making a decision as to which side they support. The excerpt I used from this source was one of the cons of standardized testing. I chose this source to help writers arguing against standardized testing. I will only be providing the reader with an excerpt from it showing one of the cons of standardized testing. This source is reliable because it is coming from Columbia University, which is a known and trusted source. The excerpt I used from this article was a paragraph describing the factors that could affect a student's performance on a test. These factors may include test anxiety, family arguments preceding the exam, or the simple fact that certain students are not good test takers. Standardized tests fail to account for these factors in a test score making the test unreliable because students may do well on certain days with low stress, while on other days something may take place that could impact their performance and negatively impact their scores.

Russo, Alexander. "Cartoons: 'Climb That Tree.'" *This Week In Education*, 24 Aug. 2012, [scholasticadministrator.typepad.com/thisweekineducation/2012/08/cartoons-climb-that-tree.html#.WoWBB0t97rc](http://scholasticadministrator.typepad.com/thisweekineducation/2012/08/cartoons-climb-that-tree.html#.WoWBB0t97rc).

This source is against the argument for standardized testing. It is a cartoon that shows a teacher giving his students a test. He says that in order for the test to be fair, all students must take the same test. The test he has given is to climb up a tree. His students are different animals who are not all capable of climbing the tree. I chose to use this cartoon as a source because it can be used as a piece of evidence for the argument against standardized testing. Someone responding to the prompt could use this source to illustrate that students are not all the same. They all have

different strengths and weaknesses that differentiate them from one another. The cartoon emphasizes that fact in order to show that you can not use a single test to measure the intelligence of so many different people. This cartoon is a biased source because it is drawn by someone trying to express their opinion through an illustration.

“Standardized Test Definition.” *The Glossary of Education Reform*, 12 Nov. 2015,

[www.edglossary.org/standardized-test/](http://www.edglossary.org/standardized-test/).

This source addresses the side for standardized testing. It defines what standardized testing is and describes the reasons why it is used in the U.S. I chose this article because it can be used as a reliable source for someone to use in their argument for standardized testing. This is a reliable source because it comes from a trusted dictionary. Someone responding to the prompt could use this source to show the reasons as to why we need standardized testing. It serves many functions (as described in the article) that cannot be carried out in any other methods.

Strachan, Maxwell. “The Maddening Truth About SAT Scores.” *The Huffington Post*, 6 Mar.

2014, [www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/06/raising-sat-score\\_n\\_4907444.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/03/06/raising-sat-score_n_4907444.html).

This source is against the use of standardized testing. The author summarizes data from the College Board showing that students with wealthy parents have higher scores than kids coming from low income families. The author does this mainly through a graph showing the correlation between SAT scores and family income. I chose this source because it could be useful to someone writing for the argument against standardized testing. It is a reliable source that uses actual statistics collected by the College Board to show the correlation between family income and SAT scores. They could use this source to show that standardized testing is unfair and biased toward wealthier students. It widens the gap between the rich and the poor by giving the

wealthier kids the opportunities students with high test scores enjoy. These opportunities include things such as scholarships and admission to prestigious universities. When students from low income families are not getting good SAT scores, that keeps them at the bottom, preventing them from paying for a good education to open doors to a brighter future.