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# **2016 MODEL CONGRESS RESEARCH PACKET**

National Testing

Your Name: Senator

Group Members: Senator Carly Arends, Senator Tammy Zhuang, Senator Robbie Coleman, Senator Justin Kim, Senator Isabelle Rosenstark

Committee Name: Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee

**Part 1: Research**

Before a committee of Congress persons presents their bill to the House of Representatives and Senate, they must be well informed about their topic. This requires research. The format attached will allow you to gather your information and present it in an orderly manner.

* Each congressperson is responsible for completing this research packet. There are 10 pages, make sure you complete the ENTIRE packet.

* You must cite all your work!

* At the end you will attach a formal bibliography.

* See individual rubrics for grade point requirements**.**
* This packet should be used as a rough draft of your work and your final product must be submitted in a typed format

**Part I:** **Topic Overview**

National Standardized testing is a test that requires students all over the country to answer similar questions, provided by a standardized testing company (ex. PARCC) . Each state can pick their own question but must be similar to each other state. The tests must be equally difficult for everyone no matter what district the student lives in. There can be some variation in the test questions. This bill will help to increase the spending budget and decrease the overall stress and anxiety of many students.

 This topic interests me because there have been a lot of controversy about whether National Standardized Testing should be mandatory education system. There also have been a lot of lawsuits against the Testings because the tests have been controversial about the scores of the test with racism, class level (upper, middle or lower), and what state you live in.

The current controversies that are surrounding this topic is that students and parents are complaining that the testing does not improve the student’s achievements in learning, the state pays too much money on standardized testing, National Standardized Testing has no objective in teaching students, and National Standardized Testing makes students stressed out because students are worried about if they get a good grade or not even though it does not count for college or future years.

**Part II: Preliminary Research**

You must use the Media Center Model Congress Pathfinder to look for research based on your topic. Use sources such as Ebscohost Points of View, Issues and Controversies, Gail: Opposing Viewpoints to help start your research

 *1. What is the history/origin of your topic?*

 Standardized national testing first became noticed in the 1980’s following the report of the Reagan administration. The purpose of National Standardized Testing is to make sure that all of the students are caught up and know all of the basics that a students in that grade should know by the end of the school year.

  *2. What are the issues/problems regarding your topic?*

That most people think that the test is not needed and it does not contribute to the students learning or future at all, and some people think that it is absolutely necessary to the learning and the growth of students. Many people also think that the test is the only way to tell if their child is falling behind or is struggling in some of their classes.

**Part III: Narrow your Focus**

 *1. As a group, which specific issue/problem will you focus on?*

We would like to focus on the topic of, should National Standardized Testing be mandatory? We would like like to minor into this part of the topic because we find it very interesting. Standardised testing can cause stress and anxiety but on the other hand it can tell us how much the teachers are teaching and give practice for the SAT’s. We would make a bill on which side we find is more necessary, yes national testing, or no national testing.

 *2. Create a Preamble for that issue/problem*

This bill will eliminate National Standardized Testing from all public schools in the United States.

 **Part IV: Supporting Evidence**

Types of evidence could include the following: ~Courts Cases, ~Previous, existing, and/or pending Legislation, ~Statistics #’s (studies, polls/surveys, and research results), ~current events, ~Constitutional Connection (Preamble, 5 Basic Principles, and Amendments)

**Types of Evidence Opposing information-Facts Significance-Relevant to your topic Citation**

**Requirement: You must have Statistics and Constitutional Connection**

#1 Current Event/Statistics

**--** People say that standardized tests are biased culturally and socially. For example, there was a question in the test that questioned: which of the following words best matched the word "cup" -- "wall," "saucer," "table" or "window"? Eddie, an African- American student who took the test chose “table” because there are no saucer to put under the cup in his home. Also the research shown that majority of the minorities has a lower standardized test score than white because of the different cultures and the bias behind the tests.

Since standardized testing is biased culturally, then standardized testing should not be mandatory. Some people say that the tests are given by white, made by white, and even graded by white folks, there is bias hidden under these tests. Different culture has different existing and traditions, since the tests are made by white, other minorities has different perspectives in some of the questions.

#2 Statistics - researches

-- 1.7 billion are spent on standardised testing each year in US, money that spent on standardised tests from 3-9 grade are about $65 per students and people said that it is an ineffective use of federal funding.

A large amount of money is spent on standardised testing, but with no effective or useful results. It is a waste of money. Standardized testing should not be mandatory.

#3 Court Cases\*

-- Hobson v. Hansen case in 1967 was about putting black into lowest track with bad education, lower-playing, and blue-collar jobs by let students take these bias standardised tests. Circuit Judge Skelly Wright found that these tests are not used to measure students ability but created in a bias way that black will get a poor grade and being put in a lower track, while white are being focused in the honor track.

The purpose of the standardised testing are not because of testing students ability so that teacher can help them in different level for SAT that is coming up. These tests are found out to make the black or other races being put into lower track, so that whites can be focus for the SAT preparation in the honor track. This is very racist and that made other races people to have a lower education, lower SAT score and that’ll impact their future. Therefore, standardised testing should not be mandatory

#4 Statistics - surveys

**--** Based on the survey released by the state School Boards Association, over 700 school districts said that state tests had cause a much greater stress and anxiety than the local assessments.

Researchers found that standardized tests is not only not helping with SAT or helping find the average of students intelligence but they also cause stress and anxiety. This is not good to students’ body nor students’ education. Standardized testing should not be mandatory since it’s not helping with education improvements.

#5 Current Events

-- For the most part, the anxiety from the assessments was not the thing that led to led to physical ailments, but recently, the psychologists found out that the new Common Core testing had caused a lot stress more than ever before.

The new Common Core testing,which another standardised test, is put a greater stress and pressure on students. These tests are recently found to cause physical ailments and illness. Standardised testing must stop right now, they are giving too much pressure on students.

#6 Constitutional Connection\*

-- The Preamble of the American Constitution states that one of the goal of the Constitution is to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our Posterity

“to secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity”, this means that the laws are going to benefit, to protect and to favor the American citizens now and to following generations. Standardized testings are not honoring this Constitutional Preamble. Standardized testings are doing no good for the students on America. They cause a great deal of stress and anxiety to these students and recently found that they might also cause physical ailments and illness, this is a bad health omen in America. Standardised testings also found that they are meant to be racist and culturally bias to African Americans, this did not achieved the goal of the Constitution - Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity. Therefore, standardised testing should not be established and given to students of America.

#7 Statistics - studies

-- The standardised tests are doing a poor job of measuring student achievement. They failed to measure the creativities, critical thinking skills, and other attributes of students in learning. Studies shows that [standardized test](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&dviSelectedPage=&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&source=&disableHighlighting=&displayGroups=&sortBy=&zid=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010478218)s are only testing on superficial thinking and may discourage more analytical thinking.

Standardised testing only tested a small parts of knowledge, which did not do well on measuring student achievements. Standardised testing can not measure student knowledge accurately because some may do well on superficial thinking, while some may have a greater aptitude on analytical thinking. These tests are not honoring their previous motive, which is to measure students achievement and help them in upcoming SAT and therefore, standardised tests are not necessary.

#8 Previous

-- The purpose of the standardised testing was to improve the STA scores in US school district, but it’s not working.

Standardised tests were established because they were thought to improve the SAT scores so that US education won’t fall behind Soviet’s, but it’s not working. Instead, these tests had brought down the SAT scores by giving too much pressures and stress. The way people had made different level groups based on the standardised test score might also be one of the factor of that brought down the SAT scores.

 **Part V: Opposing Evidence**

Types of evidence could include the following: ~Courts Cases, ~Previous, existing, and/or pending Legislation, ~Statistics #’s (studies, polls/surveys, and research results), ~current events, ~Constitutional Connection (Preamble, 5 Basic Principles, and Amendments)

**Requirement: You must have Statistics and Constitutional Connection**

**Types of Evidence Supportive Information-Facts Significance-Relevant to your topic Citation***(use EasyBib--add source as you go)*

#1- Surveys

A study was taken that showed that 93% of studies have found a positive effect from standardized testing. This means that the tests are statistically proven to help kind and be very beneficial for the child’s future. The website says, “93% of studies on student testing, including the use of large-scale and high stakes standardized tests, found a positive effect on student achievement.” this is from the website<http://standardizedtests.procon.org/>.

#2- Studies

The tests can tell which students need special-education services. This means that if a student is struggling, they can figure out if they need extra help or not. But if they don’t have standardized test the teachers would never know if the students were having trouble. If the students don’t have the right education it can lead to a domino effect of failure for the student. If they are having trouble in one unit and the teacher never addresses it, the students will go on in school still confused, and if that is still not addressed they will continue throughout all the years of school, all because they never got special treatments when the problem first started.

#3- Survey

75% of parents say that standardized tests “are a stolid measure of their child's abilities.” Studies show that even parents agree that test are beneficial to the students learning and measuring their abilities. If we get rid of standardized tests, lots of parents could get angered, leading to complaints and possibly way worse. Also, the opposing side argues that parents don’t understand the stress and the anxiety of the test, but they may not realize that parents went through all of this as a kid and they understand all the stress.

#4- Existing legislation

In the 2001 No Child Left Behind Act it declares that under this law, students will continue to take annual tests between third and eighth grades. This means that the standardized tests are mandatory for the kids under the No Child Left Behind Act. This bill was made so that no kid was ever left behind and they always got the education that they needed. This topic is similar to the issues mentioned in evidence number 2 2. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Every_Student_Succeeds_Act>.

#5- Studies

Studies show that the standardized tests is one of the primary methods used to measure the performance of education institutes (and often teachers). This proves that the tests are one of the best ways to determine the performance of the schools and also to asses the teachers and if they are doing their jobs properly. If the teachers are not doing their jobs properly, we would never know because we could not compare the grades from one school to another and see if one of the school is falling behind behind. [behind.http://web.a.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?sid=95d82d27-c30e-4bbb-bde2-f38075ffaf13%40sessionmgr4003&vid=0&hid=4107&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=23463780&db=pwh](http://web.a.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?sid=95d82d27-c30e-4bbb-bde2-f38075ffaf13%40sessionmgr4003&vid=0&hid=4107&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=23463780&db=pwh)

#6- Studies

Studies have shown that the standardized tests are not too stressful for students. The study shows, “the vast majority of students do not exhibit stress and have a positive attitude towards standardized testing programs.” This proves that some students do not find the test that stressful. They also say that young students vomit at their desks for a variety of reasons, and only in rare cases is it an effect of the stress from the test.<http://standardizedtests.procon.org/>.

#7- Research results

“The multiple-choice format used on standardized tests produces accurate information necessary to assess and improve American schools. multiple-choice questions can provide "highly reliable test scores" and an "objective measurement of student achievement.” This means that the tests are very reliable and the multiple choice questions are very accurate.

#8- Research results

“Standardized tests are inclusive and non-discriminatory because they ensure content is equivalent for all students” People argue that using alternative tests for minorities or children with disabilities would be unfair to them. This means that the tests are not discriminating certain students, and if we were to change the tests it would not be fair to the students with disabilities. It would be unfair because the current tests are mostly for the benefit of disabled or students with learning disabilities, and to me it would not make sense to change the test because certain people are uncomfortable with it.

**Part VI: Supportive Arguments**—***Cite your sources***

What are the three main reasons/arguments that support your topic AND choose the best evidence to support those reasons/arguments?

1. **Main Argument**:

National Testing should be banned from the united states because it causes stress. As you can see in the evidence psychologists found that national testing can raise stress levels, to the point that students are getting sick from stress. They are getting so much pressure on them from parents and teachers to get high scores that they can physically get sick and can get physical ailments. Also the children start to feel they are stupid if they don’t do good to well on a test that they didn’t learn how to do the stuff on. It also makes the children put too much pressure on themselves and makes their self esteem lower if they don’t do as good as their friends. National Testing causes way too much stress and should be banned from the United States.

 Evidence:

Current Events

[**http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/27\_04/edit274.shtml**](http://www.rethinkingschools.org/archive/27_04/edit274.shtml)

[**http://www.lohud.com/story/news/education/2015/11/20/common-core-anxiety/76114566/**](http://www.lohud.com/story/news/education/2015/11/20/common-core-anxiety/76114566/)

-- For the most part, the anxiety from the assessments was not the thing that led to led to physical ailments, but recently, the psychologists found out that the new Common Core testing had caused a lot stress more than ever before.

The new Common Core testing,which another standardised test, is put a greater stress and pressure on students. These tests are recently found to cause physical ailments and illness. Standardised testing must stop right now, they are giving too much pressure on students.

 2. **Main Argument**:

National Testing can sometimes be biased based on your race, gender, and social status, which is another reason why national testing should be banned from the US. Sometimes the results of the test are made based on a person's race gender and social status. In the article by the huffington post a child got a bad grade because he didn’t like the questions on the test and walked out. the kid, Micheal Evans is normally a straight A student. The question were to put down on students on the low minority, this is not okay. This is just another reasons why Standardized testing should be banned.

Evidence:

Current Event/Statistics [**http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?sid=31186a2d-4a5c-4047-9c72-c1693bb5d086%40sessionmgr114&vid=1&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=23463780&db=pwh**](http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?sid=31186a2d-4a5c-4047-9c72-c1693bb5d086%40sessionmgr114&vid=1&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=23463780&db=pwh)

[**http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ronnie-reese/test-bias-minorities\_b\_2734149.html**](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ronnie-reese/test-bias-minorities_b_2734149.html)

**--** People say that standardized tests are biased culturally and socially. For example, there was a question in the test that questioned: which of the following words best matched the word "cup" -- "wall," "saucer," "table" or "window"? Eddie, an African- American student who took the test chose “table” because there are no saucer to put under the cup in his home. Also the research shown that majority of the minorities has a lower standardized test score than white because of the different cultures and the bias behind the tests.

If for some people standardized testing is biased culturally, then standardized testing should not be mandatory. Some people say that the tests are given by white, made by white, and even graded by white folks, there is bias hidden under these tests. Different culture has different existing and traditions, since the tests are made by white, other minorities has different perspectives in some of the questions.

 3. **Main Argument**:

 Standardized testing takes so much money that school districts could use for new books, textbooks, and technology. The spend on average 1.7 billion dollars on standardized testing, which is so unreasonable. The money could very easily be used for more useful things to help the students learn more recent stuff. That’s the last reason why standardized testing is extremely unreasonable.

Evidence:

Statistics - researches

[**http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?sid=31186a2d-4a5c-4047-9c72-c1693bb5d086%40sessionmgr114&vid=1&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=23463780&db=pwh**](http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?sid=31186a2d-4a5c-4047-9c72-c1693bb5d086%40sessionmgr114&vid=1&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=23463780&db=pwh)

[**http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/11/29/13testcosts.h32.html**](http://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2012/11/29/13testcosts.h32.html)

-- 1.7 billion are spent on standardised testing each year in US, money that spent on standardised tests from 3-9 grade are about $65 per students and people said that it is an ineffective use of federal funding.

A large amount of money is spent on standardised testing, but with no effective or useful results. It is a waste of money. Standardized testing should not be mandatory.

**Part VII: Opposing**—***Cite your sources***

What are the three main reasons/arguments opposing your topic AND choose the best evidence to support those reasons/arguments?

1. **Main Argument:** It has been statistically proven that standardized testing has had a positive effect on academic achievement. Students have achieved academic achievement because if they get a bad test score, they will know that the student will need extra help which could have a positive effect on their grades which leads to student achievement..

Evidence: With 100 years of research, it has been proven that standardized testing has a positive effect on academic achievement. With a lot of research on standardized testing, it is easy to say that this type of testing has a positive effect on student when it comes to academic achievement. That is a lot of years of researching if this type of testing is effective or not.

1. **Main Argument**: With National Standardized Testing, it is easy to tell which students and teachers need help in their academic careers. With National Standardized Testing, it is easy to compare one student’s test score to the another student’s test score. It is also easy to tell if a teacher is doing her job better than another teacher based on the student’s test score. A teacher or student can get extra help because of National Standardized Testing.

Evidence: If a student is taking a standardized test and he does not know the question because the teacher has never taught that topic, then the student will go on to be very confused throughout his/her academic career because never taught the topic that was in the curricular. In this case, the teacher would be fired but if a student did not pay attention to the teacher and she did teach the topic, then the student would need extra help to go forward in his academic career.

**Part VIII: Government Spending**

“To create a new program, the government normally gets the money either by cutting funds to an existing program OR by raising taxes.” The budget has two large spending categories, **mandatory** and **discretionary**. Mandatory spending is required by law on specific programs. After those programs are paid for, the president and Congress

 may use the remaining money for discretionary spending on programs they choose. Each year, roughly 30 percent of the federal budget is in discretionary spending. (Note-taking format done with your group)

1. Indicate whether your Bill’s spending will be discretionary or mandatory?

 This bill will be discretionary. This bill will be discretionary because the enforcement that is needed is minimal. Only needing the local police to end any standardized testing. Nearly 1.7 billion dollars are used for standardized testing per year. By enacting this bill the US government can use the funds saved from the absence of national testing. With the 69.4 billion dollar discretionary budget the bill might use the least amount of money for a bill.

B: Indicate the Department/Agency Budget Source and any other information you may have found that will provide government spending information:

The US Department of Education

The US Department of Treasury

**Don’t forget your final Bibliography:** You must cite each section you complete. Attach your formal bibliography to the end of your typed final research. You must have at least five different sources

1. ProCon.org. (2014, August 28). Standardized Testing. Retrieved from

<http://standardizedtests.procon.org/>

2. Us Government. "Committees." *· House.gov*. US House of Representativs, n.d. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

3. Eric. "Legal Issues in Testing." *Legal Issues in Testing.* ERICdigests, Dec.-Jan. 1985. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

4. "No Child Left Behind Act." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 12 Feb. 2005. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

5. L, Issit Micah, and Maureen Mc. Mahon. "Standardized Testing: An Overview." *Ebsco Host*. Ebsco, 2015. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

6. "Standardized Testing." *Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*. Detroit: Gale, 2015. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

7. Witherbee, Amy, and Denise B. Geier. "Point: Standardized Testing Is the Best Way to Establish Education Standards." *Ebscohost*. Ebsco, 2015. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

8. Harris, Phillip, Joan Harris, and Bruce M. Smith. "Standardized Tests Do Not Effectively Measure Student Achievement." *Standardized Testing*. Ed. Dedria Bryfonski. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2012. At Issue. Rpt. from "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. 33-45. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

9. Wikipedia. "Every Student Succeeds Act." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 3 Dec. 2015. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

10. Reese, Ronnie. "Minority Testing Bias Persists." *The Huffington Post*. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 21 Feb. 2013. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

11. Yettic, Holly R. "Hobson v. Hansen." *Education Law*. Education Law, n.d. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

12. Ujifusa, Andrew. "Standardized Testing Costs States $1.7 Billion a Year, Study Says." *Education Week*. Education Week, 29 Nov. 2012. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

13. Spector, Joseph. "Common Core Tests Giving Kids Anxiety, Psychologists Say." *Lohud.com*. Lohud, 20 Nov. 2015. Web. 29 Feb. 2016.

14. "Standardized Testing." *Opposing Viewpoints Online Collection*. Detroit: Gale, 2015. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Web. 1 Mar. 2016.

15. Harris, Phillip, Joan Harris, and Bruce M. Smith. "Standardized Tests Do Not Effectively Measure Student Achievement." *Standardized Testing*. Ed. Dedria Bryfonski. Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2012. At Issue. Rpt. from "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. 33-45. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Web. 1 Mar. 2016.

16. Kohn, Alfie. "The Case Against Standardized Testing: Raising the Scores, Ruining the Schools." *The Case Against Standardized Testing: Raising the Scores, Ruining the Schools* (2000): 1-23. *Teacherrenewal*. Wikipedia, 2000. Web. 2 Mar. 2016. <http://teacherrenewal.wiki.westga.edu/file/view/Testing,+Testing,+Testing.pdf/227207662/Testing,%20Testing,%20Testing.pdf>.