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Research Paper

English 110

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### Are Test Like the ACT and the SAT Effective?

The SAT is a standardized test that is taken all across the world. The SATs started in 1926 and has been around ever since. The name of the test has been changed around a couple of times, each name change had the same affect, they all explained what the test was about and for. The test is to test students on their basic knowledge of Writing, Reading and Mathematics. Scores for the SAT range from four-hundred to sixteen-hundred, while they used to have a maximum score of 2400. The ACT is also a standardized test that is taken across the world. The ACT is not much more different than the SAT, the ACT focuses on all the same subjects except the ACT has an additional section which is science. The ACT test scores range from one to thirty-six. The SAT and the ACT are based on what they expect student have learned in school, what they are capable of knowing on their own and whether or not it is accurate information coming from students taking these tests.

Standardized test help scale students on how much they have learned throughout their years of school. These tests can be taken once a student enters high school but most students wait until about the end their tenth-grade year to start taking these tests and take them up into about the beginning of their twelfth-grade year. These tests essentially tell students if they have the

chance to get to the college of their dreams or if they will have to settle for a school that will accept their test scores.

Schools have started to see that test scores are not all that great to base what a student is knowledgeable of (Rooney). Students tend to run out of time when it comes the sections on the test, and when the test sections are multiple choice instead of just leaving questions unanswered student tend to guess an answer therefore giving them a 25% chance of getting the question right. Some students fall asleep during the test and end up waking up towards the end and go straight to guessing what the answers are to the questions instead of actually going through and reading everything and doing the work.

The SAT and ACT tend to come off a bit unfair to African Americans as well, putting them at higher risk to not do as well as a White person would. It has been proven that white students scores average to be higher than black students averages. Studies show that males also have a tendency to score less than females do on the SAT and ACT. With black students, they supposedly are culturally and educationally less diverse than most white students therefore giving them a disadvantage when it comes to the test taking and preparation for the SAT and ACT (Howard).

Should a couple of tests be able to determine where a student stands academically through their whole high school career? Colleges look at how a student does on this one test and a GPA to determine if a student is worthy of attending their school, instead of seeing how the students have done throughout their entire time of being in school to see how these students have progressed in certain classes. To see how a student has brought their grades in a struggling class up over the semesters. Students should not be tested their overall knowledge just because of these tests.

Furthermore, students could be given the chance to show their capable of doing other things such as, outside activities, work experience and talents. If a student is weak in subjects that appear on the test but has a slight understanding of them and they strive in other subjects that do not tend to appear on the test, how is that fair to students? Extracurricular activities help students get into colleges too, especially when their test scores and GPA scores are not high enough for some of their selected schools.

However, having these standardized tests will determine students level of knowledge. It will help each student to be ready for higher education like college and other high work level. It is not only going to be helpful for the future, but also it will make other students to try harder and improve themselves. These tests can show how a student has taken in the previous information provided to them over the years. Students tend to go off of what their friends know in school by cheating off of their “smarter” friend or by teaming up and working together.

These standardized tests will make or break a student, these tests tell students if they should continue to try in school to get to college and further their education or just start looking for their full-time jobs. The tests will make or break students. The tests are stressful and take a lot out of students they study all year for such test and then when they don't do as they expect it messes with the mentality of the student. There should be some other form of testing to see where a student stands in their academic. One test should not be able to determine where students stand there should be other ways to show and prove how students take in information.

### Work Cited

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