

David Hayden

Prof. Gust

EDUC 230

February 15, 2011

High Stakes Assessment Position Paper

First and for most, most people do not even know what a high stakes test is. A high stakes test is a test with important consequences for the test taker. Passing has important consequences like getting into college, getting a high school diploma, and getting a license to practice a profession. If students do not pass the high stakes test they might have to take certain classes over again till they can pass the test. Some examples are not being able to drive if you can't pass the driving test, or not getting employed since you don't have the write education.

I do think that high stakes testing are beneficial to all students and people who have to take them. I feel like it is a good assessment on how much those people know and how much they learned about those topics. Since these high stakes test that the students have to take mean a lot, they have to be pay attention all year long. They will have to be able to remember what all they have learned in recent class and be able to put it to use on the high stakes test. If students do well and pass these high stakes test then you know that they have paid attention in their previous classes and remember everything that they were taught. **(Snowman & McCown, 2009, chap 15)**

For parents I also think that high stakes testing is good. The reason I believe this because it shows the parents what the kids are learning while taking all of these classes. It also shows the parents what their child or children need help or more work on in the future when they have to take more high stakes test. The parents will be more involved if they know what their child or

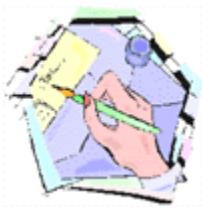
children is having trouble in and will be able to encourage them to do better. Parents would be able to help their students study and prepare for these high stakes test which would have a great effect on the student's grade on the high stakes test.

I think that the high stakes test benefits the teacher more than any other person that is involved. It is basically a reflection on how well the teachers have taught there specific subjects. The teachers need to be able to look at these tests as positive things even if the scores are not what they want them to be. It lets the teacher know what area of their subject that they cover very well and what are or areas that they need to focus on more, and improve in that area. They also need to be able to change their teaching styles in that area to see if students learn better with that different learning style.

The schooling systems are all about the scores of high stakes test. They believe that it is a necessity to have good scores on high stakes test. It monitors the schools improvement efforts. It points out the student's strengths and weakness to target certain instruction. Allows the school to be recognized all around the news and in other school systems. It shows that the teachers know the standards and teach them the way that the students can understand and remember them. Schools with good scores attract better teachers and students who want to learn better and teacher more efficiently. **(Education Commission of the States (2011, January) Assessment/ High Stakes. <http://www.ecs.org/html/issue.asp?issueid=12&subIssueID=33>.)**

High stakes test are more important that most people think. Students might not believe it but they are important to them they decide their future. Parents should agree with the importance and help their child to prepare for these tests since the test decides their child's future. Teachers look at

these tests as a feedback to how well they are teaching and what they need to improve on. The school systems love to have good test scores so they get recognized for being successful. That is why I truly believe that high stakes test is very important.



Manchester College

High Stakes Testing- Pro or Con

Name _____ Due Feb. 15, 2011

| | Criteria | | | | Pts. |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|--|-------------|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| Position Statement | Statement of position cannot be determined. | Position is stated, but is not maintained consistently throughout work. | Position is clearly stated and consistently maintained. References to the issue(s) at hand are missing . | Position is clearly stated and consistently maintained. Clear references to the issue(s) are stated. | _4_ |
| Supporting Information | Evidence is unrelated to argument. | Argument is supported by limited evidence . | Evidence clearly supports the position; but there is not enough evidence . | Evidence clearly supports the position; evidence is sufficient . | _3_ |
| Organization | There is a total lack of structure. | . Some attempt to structure the argument has been made, but the structure is poorly developed . | Structure developed reasonably well, but lacks clarity | Structure of work is clearly developed. | _4_ |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|------|
| Tone Of Letter | Tone is inappropriate to purpose. | Tone does not contribute to persuasiveness. | Tone enhances persuasiveness, but there are inconsistencies . | Tone is consistent and enhances persuasiveness. | _4_ |
| Sentence Structure | Work pays little attention to proper sentence structure. | Work contains structural weaknesses and grammatical errors | Sentence structure is generally correct. Some awkward sentences do appear.. | Sentence structure is correct . | 4 |
| Punctuation & Capitalization | There are four or more errors in punctuation and/or capitalization. | There are two or three errors in punctuation and/or capitalization. | There is one error in punctuation and/or capitalization. | Punctuation and capitalization are correct . | 4 |
| | | | | Total----> | _23_ |

Teacher Comments: