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### Should the SAT Abolished?

The SAT(Scholastic Aptitude Test) is a test that is taken by about 1.7 million students each year, and is a major stepping stone to college. The test has very many flaws however, and may be better to just be rid of. The SAT is a standardized test that doesn't actually represent the intelligence of the individual taking the test. Even though the best indication of an individual's level of education is their GPA(Grade Point Average), most colleges rely heavily on students' SAT score. The essay written to the college gives them insight into the person writing the paper, yet SATs just makes the writer a number. One of the biggest criticisms for the test is that SAT scores are heavily correlated with the student's income.

Some readers may challenge my view by insisting that the SAT is the most accurate way to measure someone's intelligence. However, I believe that SAT scores aren't even comparable to a student's GPA, because a SAT score is based on the student's effectiveness on a single test, vs GPA which is accumulated over the course of their entire high school career. A single test can't give colleges the same amount of information about how that person is as a student, compared to a entire transcript of their grades. A article posted by college.usatoday.com in February 2014, Martha Allman, dean of admissions at Wake Forest University, stated, "We believed ... that we could evaluate students effectively without the use of SAT or ACT

[scores],”. Colleges are already beginning to stop using SAT scores for admission, because of the lack of individualism behind the test.

Currently all that SAT tests have proven to colleges is that the student can complete a single standardized test in a timely matter. While it is true that it is highly unlikely to get a high score on the SAT by guessing, I still maintain that a multiple choice test doesn't show the student's intelligence. This can be easily done through repetition, and doesn't show how dedicated the applicant is. One student shouldn't be able to get into a better college than someone else, because of luck. College Board has recently made the essay portion of the SATs optional, which is creating an even greater divide. The SAT test is mostly a multiple choice test, so a person could get very lucky, and get a higher score than they truly deserve. Jill Tiefenthaler, a professor of economics at Colorado College, stated, “Standardized tests were never intended to measure the complexities of intelligence, and over time they have drawn the center of gravity in college admissions away from things we value.” This post shows that college professors see the flaws in the test, and how it is drawing their attention from students who deserve to go to the college.

The most pressing concern that people have taken attention to however, is that SAT scores are highly correlated to that person's family income. This is likely due to wealthier families having more resources to help them do better on tests, i.e. private tutoring, or living in a better school district. This assistance creates a large gap in knowledge between the wealthy and the poor, resulting in this direct relationship between the two. While it is true that not all high income individuals get a high SAT score, it doesn't disprove the fact that they are still given a massive advantage on the test compared to those living in poverty. An article written by [www.msnbc.com](http://www.msnbc.com) in March 2014, Erin Delmore, a reporter for MSNBC, states, “Students from

families making less than \$20,000 a year averaged a combined score of 1,326 –whereas students with a family income of more than \$200,000 a year scored an average of 1,714 points”. Another massive issue is that it costs money to even take the SAT! Schools can give out only a limited number of vouchers to students, so there will be students who can’t take the test, because they can’t afford it. Taking the SAT is crucial to going to colleges, and it’s unfair for students who don’t have enough money. Meanwhile, other families can have their child take the SAT over and over again, until they get a high score.

The SAT test is a major influence for colleges, yet it has many flaws. The SAT provides very little info about the student’s knowledge, it doesn’t represent them as a individual, and high income families are much more likely to succeed. There are so many issues with the test, that it would likely do more good to remove the standardized test completely. All this test has done is make students a number on a spreadsheet, and made it so that the wealthy have the advantage over everyone.

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