**Ms. Diehl**

**College Preparatory English**

**Summerville High School**

*“There are no great limits to growth because there are no limits of*

*human intelligence, imagination, and wonder.”*

*–Ronald Reagan*

**Persuasive Writing**

**Citing Sources**

**Assignment:** For each one of your arguments (reasons in support of your argument/thesis), find two sound quotes that help support it. Make sure to use scholarly research and print out the website addresses you reference and other resources used to go back and complete your works cited page. Also, after each quote, identify which source you used to find that information.

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| **Argument #1****Supporting Quotes (2)** | **Argument #2****Supporting Quotes (2)** | **Argument #3****Supporting Quotes (2)** | **Opposing Viewpoint****Supporting Quotes (2)** |
| **UNRELIABLE MEASURE**1. Standardized tests are an unreliable measure of student performance. A 2001 study published by the Brookings Institution found that 50-80% of year-over-year test score improvements were temporary and "caused by fluctuations that had nothing to do with long-term changes in learning..." (Lynn Olson)2. Standardized tests measure only a small portion of what makes education meaningful. According to late education researcher Gerald W. Bracey, PhD, qualities that standardized tests cannot measure include "creativity, critical thinking, resilience, motivation, persistence, curiosity, endurance, reliability, enthusiasm, empathy, self-awareness, self-discipline, leadership, civic-mindedness, courage, compassion, resourcefulness, sense of beauty, sense of wonder, honesty, integrity." (Valerie Strauss) | **STRESSFUL FOR STUDENTS**1. Standardized testing causes severe stress in younger students. According to education researcher Gregory J. Cizek, anecdotes abound "illustrating how testing... produces gripping anxiety in even the brightest students, and makes young children vomit or cry, or both." (Paul Cizek)2. On Mar. 14, 2002, the Sacramento Bee reported that "test-related jitters, especially among young students, are so common that the Stanford-9 exam comes with instructions on what to do with a test booklet in case a student vomits on it." (Barbara Ohanian) | **COSTLY FOR SCHOOLS**1. The billion dollar testing industry is notorious for making costly and time-consuming scoring errors. [[99](http://standardizedtests.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=004348#99)] [[42](http://standardizedtests.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=004348#42)] NCS Pearson, which has a $254 million contract to administer Florida's Comprehensive Assessment Test, delivered the 2010 results more than a month late and their accuracy was challenged by over half the state's superintendents. (Valerie Strauss)2. Testing is expensive and costs have increased since NCLB, placing a burden on state education budgets. According to the Texas Education Agency, the state spent $9 million in 2003 to test students, while the cost to Texas taxpayers from 2009 through 2012 is projected to be around $88 million per year. (Marcy Martinez) | 1.93% of studies have found student testing, including the use of large-scale, standardized tests, to have a "positive effect" on student achievement, according to a peer-reviewed, 100-year analysis of testing research completed in 2011 by testing scholar Richard P. Phelps. (Phelps)2. America is facing a "creativity crisis," with testing and rote learning "dumbing down" the nation's schools and jeopardizing the country's economic future. A 2010 College of William & Mary study found Americans' scores on the Torrance Test of Creative Thinking have been dropping since 1990, and researcher Kyung-Hee Kim lays part of the blame on the increase in standardized testing: "If we neglect creative students in school because of the structure and the testing movement... then they become underachievers” (Erin Zagursky) |