

Is Making Students Take Tests On Things They Learn In School Helpful?

By: Daisy Dunning

Everyone has different opinions on making students do tests on the things they learn in school. I have researched some reasons on why or why not students should take test, the main topics I researched are, are tests useful for students? Should tests be a large percentage of students' overall grades? What are the advantages and disadvantages of testing for students and teachers?

I personally don't think that tests should be a large percentage of a student's overall grade. I do think students should have to keep doing tests though, because tests are a good way of seeing if every individual in the class is understanding what they are learning and if they know how to explain and properly answer the questions they are being asked. I think a test doesn't really have to be graded at all, just let it be a way of knowing the areas teachers still need to explain a little bit more and see who might need a little more help in class. I found this information online, "More standardized-tests are being examined and homework and class time is being devoted to preparing students for the tests they are forced to take, instead of being spent on teaching them how to do the work that will be on the test and giving instruction." I also think that they can lack making sure the students know what they are learning and not just memorizing certain areas and sentences just because that part will be on the test.

I don't think that tests are overly helpful to students, instead of learning, we just try to remember the things that we need to because they will be on the test. I believe that the only learning and helpful part of taking tests for the students is they learn how to write a test. I think that tests are a lazy way for teachers to drill information into their student's minds to help them get good grades. I know from experience, that even if you get 100% on a test, you can still have forgotten everything that was on it by the next day, I think this is because we only let ourselves learn and teachers only teach us the parts that will be on the test.

I think that a main advantage for teachers making students take tests is that it's an easier way for them to teach the things they need to. A disadvantage for teachers would be they have to make sure every kid knows what is on the test and how to answer the questions, they also have to prepare the tests. An advantage for the students would be that they only have to make sure they know what will be on the test and memorize the answers to those questions. A disadvantage for the students is that they don't remember what they learned after the test because they have no interest in that, students have been taught that they don't need to learn anything to get good grades, they just have to know the answers to the questions that will be on the test. And so they don't get anything out of the classes they have to attend. [I know I've been saying that a lot and that is because teachers always tell you the areas that we need to study and the type of questions that will be on the test.]

In conclusion, I don't think that student should need to take tests, but if and when they do, they might not be helpful. Some students get nervous around tests and aren't able to show how much they actually know about the subject they are studying. I think that tests should be an optional thing, and by that I mean that there should be multiple choices of ways that students show their progress and learning, for example, a project or a write up, I think that this idea is important because some student hate tests, others like them. If students are able to show what they in the way they chose, they would be able to show or tell a teacher about it, also I think students will enjoy class more if they don't have to worry about the stress of a test. When students are in stressful situations, they aren't able to work their best and sometimes aren't able to answer the questions they know the answers to, but if we had a different way of evaluating students' knowledge, t I think they would be able to tell you everything they know because they are telling you in the way the feel comfortable to.