

**Many see standardized testing as the answer to improving public education in the United States. Thus, students face district-and-state-mandated tests as well as nation ones. Write a carefully argued essay in which you defend, challenge, or qualify the discussion that standardized testing is an effective way to bring about improved instruction and performance.**

**Homeschooling has become an effective alternative to public or private schools for an increasingly large number of students in the United States. Write a carefully argued essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies the belief that home schooling is best for children.**

**Most people believe that children should be required to attend at least one year of school prior to kindergarten. Write a carefully argued essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies the belief that tax dollars should be used to pay for mandatory, government-funded preschool.**

**According to Francine Prose, “Education, after all, is a process intended to produce a product.” Write a carefully argued essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies her notion of education.**

**Write a carefully argued essay that defends, challenges, or qualifies one of the following quotes:**

- **“The only real education comes from what goes counter to you.” Andre Gide**
- **“Education is not filling a bucket by lighting a fire.” William Butler Yeats**
- **“Rewards and punishments are the lowest forms of education.” Chuang-Tzu**