

Hello, my name is Jesus Santoya and I am from Jefferson Davis High School.

Throughout my school years, I've had much difficulty dealing with the stress of testing. One test that gets the best of me is the TAKS test. I am in a constant state of worry and tension. Whenever I feel the pressure of testing, I forget what it means to be a kid and what it feels like to have a life. I don't get any time to play my French horn, play soccer with my friends, or go watch a movie with my family. I lose confidence in myself and I feel that if I don't pass the test, I can't accomplish anything.

It is as if there is someone over my shoulder forcing me turn my brains inside out and judging me. Not just what I know! It is scary to know that if I don't some meet some certain standard, it makes me, my teachers, my school and my family look bad. The stress from testing also affects my family and friends.

My niece was going to graduate with all her needed credits and classes but didn't because, like me, she is not a good test taker. She had to sit back and watch her friends as they walked onto the stage and received their recognition and diplomas. Her TAKS test scores kept her from graduating. She took the TAKS test 7 times. Every time she took the test and got the scores back her mother would go into a deep depression. She felt so bad, her hair started thinning and she became less cheery and optimistic about her future. This caused a chain reaction in the family and eventually all the aunts and uncles, worry about her. Finally she passed it on her 7th try.

I felt the same heaviness on my back. I dread having to focus on something irrelevant to what I do on a daily basis and lose quality family time because I have to study nonstop. I do well in school and get good grades, but when it comes to testing, everything makes me want to quit, I don't learning anything from testing drills, and practice tests.

I have a friend who dropped out due to the stress of the school's testing curriculum. All we would study in class is how to pass a test which frustrated all of us and made school less interesting and appealing. If it weren't for a good friend of hers that talked he into it, she would have never came back to school to fulfill her dreams and go to college.

There has to be a solution to so much testing, we already have mid-terms, end of course exams, and finals every year! I don't want to have to fret over some dumb test that does nothing but bring harm to my friends and family.