

UNDERSTANDING TEST SCORES



Time Required: 30-45 minutes

Principles: Students will acquire attitudes, knowledge, and skills that contribute to effective learning in school and across the lifespan.

Objectives (Students will...): Analyze the most recent standardized test results to identify strengths and challenges.

GOAL: Students will understand how to read and interpret test scores and plan for future test success to meet academic and post-secondary needs.

Activity Statement:

Students will discuss standardized tests in order to understand scores, and identify sources to plan for future testing success. Lesson may be divided to cover each type of test in each lesson or used to give overview and identify sources to get additional information.

Materials:

1. Copy of PSAT and/or PLAN scores (as applicable) or sample scores. (These reports can be obtained from the high school guidance office.)
2. Pen/pencil
3. Handout 1 – “Interpretation of Test Scores”
4. Testing schedule of all tests for junior year. Obtain from Web site below.
5. Handout 2 – “Why the PSAT?”

Procedures:

1. Write the words *standardized tests* and *non-standardized tests* on the chalkboard.
2. Ask students to identify the difference between these tests.
3. Ask students to name examples of standardized tests (ACT, SAT, PSAT, PLAN Post range of scores on the board or provide handout.
4. Have students examine their own standardized score reports.
5. Distribute and discuss Handout 1.
6. Distribute and discuss Handout 2.
7. Distribute junior testing schedule. (Testing schedule can be found at [LCSD website](#) listed under [Additional Resources](#).) Discuss dates and procedures for upcoming tests.

Discussion: Divide students into teams, or teacher led discussion – and discuss the following:

1. What types of scores are given for the PLAN?
2. What is a percentile score? Mean percent correct
3. What is a national percentile score?

4. What types of tests are needed for four-year college admission, community/technical college?
5. Have you taken the PSAT/ACT/SAT? Which test should you take?
6. What scores must you make to get into your college of choice? Where can you locate this information?
7. Where do you fall in the score range? What would you need to do to move to the next level?

Integrative Closing Statement:

Analyzing your test results is important. Understanding your test performance can help you understand the importance of learning better test-taking strategies.

Please inform your parents they can call me (advisor) or your counselor for help understanding your scores.

Additional Resources:

LCSD website/state DOE website or other website to access testing timelines and test Preparation needed here...WVDE

or ? http://wv.educationplanner.org/education_planner/preparing.asp?sponsor=2869

ACT Website: www.ACTstudent.org **SAT website:** www.collegeboard.org

Extension Activities:

Review above websites for additional help with understanding test scores, taking practice tests and learning new test taking tips and strategies. The ACT student Website also includes a blog to ask questions and get immediate answers.

Advisor: Post testing schedule in classroom. Have students write important test dates in Students' planners.

Activity: Students can refer to school counselor, NVCIS, or college Board website
