

Erin Rosen, Student, Horace Greeley High School

The pressure on teachers to produce students who score well on standardized tests detracts from the core values of learning. Teaching is about inspiring students to be creative and come up with unique ways to solve problems. Additionally, if the quality of teachers is based on how well students score on tests, it allows for under qualified and sub-par teachers to maintain their jobs. The quality of a teacher should not be determined by how much time is spent drilling students on the format of exams. There is already a large pressure on students to get good grades on tests. The fact that these grades are almost the sole indication of how decent a teacher is places more stress on the student, which is often done by the teacher themselves out of the desire to keep their job. Student's scores on Common Core exams do not accurately reflect their intelligence nor do they reflect the quality of the teachers.