

**Zoe A Weinstein, md, Parent**

Students should not spend the equivalent of two weeks being tested and not learning anything. Multiple choice testing can not be a useful way of assessing true knowledge. I should know I am a board certified surgeon who spent the better part of my young adult life studying to pass tests after I had studied deeply for real knowledge. I don't want my daughter studying for tests. I want her to be developing real intellectual skills. As a scientist I don't know what you are doing to the liberal arts. Kids need to read and write poetry, read a lot of literature, make art and music. These creative intellectual pursuits are connected to scientific thinking and you are discounting them by making all of the liberal arts too fact based. Your emphasis on close reading of texts is absurd. Kids are spending too much time on texts that may not interest many in the group. Have them read more and diverse texts. There will be something to which everyone's imagination can cling. Imagination is the key to creative thinking in all disciplines. Our greatest mathematicians and scientists have also been artists. You people have lost your way and are leaving our kids behind. For the first time I will have my very bright child opt out of these standardized tests and augment her education during that time with reading, museum and musical excursions and math and science problems. Maybe you could follow my lead, cut down on the testing and teach the kids something instead.