

A decorative horizontal separator consisting of a series of small squares, alternating between solid black and white.

Shirley Gunnink

Here is a sampling of the valid

Marie Winn compares TV

For the social and spiritual health of his family, anyone who owns a television set does well to read *The Plug-in Drug*, a truly pointed and thought-provoking book.



STANDARDIZED TESTS: BANE OR BOON?

They will soon be upon us again, those standardized achievement tests. Just when the school year is well under way, just when the classes have settled into their new routines, just when teachers have learned about the diverse personalities of the students they are teaching, all must be interrupted for those Iowa Basics. You hear questions raised: "Is it worth it? Why must we do this if we never use them?" Sometimes you merely see looks of resignation. It is safe to say that few teachers enjoy administering

Why, then, have we continued this practice, year after year? Is there value in it for our schools?

What are standardized tests? They are tests constructed by specialists in test construction, with the help of curriculum experts, teachers, and school administrators, for the purpose of determining a student's level of performance, relative to that of other students of similar age and grade. They are normed on a representative sample of students nationwide. Students are tested in math, science, language arts, and general knowledge. There are several kinds of standardized tests; we are concerned here with two of them: achievement tests.

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