

High-Stakes Testing, the Standardized Classroom, and the Marginalization of Multicultural Education

The screenshot shows the EssayPro website homepage. At the top, the logo 'ESSAYPRO' is on the left, and navigation links 'How To Order', 'Reviews', 'About Us', and 'Write My Essay' are in the center. On the right, there are links for 'DBA: EPRO', 'Log In', and a blue 'Sign Up' button. The main banner features a student sleeping at a desk with a pen holder. Text on the banner includes 'WRITING SERVICE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE', 'You - Send us your homework We - Do it all for you', and 'Grab your original paper for just \$10 per page with a free plagiarism report included'. A 'Write My Essay!' button is present. A 'Calculate the price' widget is overlaid on the right, showing options for 'Writing', 'Rewriting', and 'Editing', with 'Writing' selected. It also shows 'Essay (any type)', 'College', '2 weeks', '1 page / 275 words', and 'Double spaces' selected. The price is '\$11.4' with a flame icon, and a 'Write My Paper' button is at the bottom. Below the banner, there are three rating sections: 'EssayPro Reviews' with a 4.9 rating and five stars, 'ResellerRatings' with a 4.9 rating and five stars, and 'Sitejabber' with a 4.8 rating and five stars.

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“The world’s greatest problems do not result from people being unable to read and write. They result from people in the world—from different cultures, races, religions, and nations—being unable to get along and to work together to solve the world’s problems.” These statements by James A. Banks have made a profound impact on my view towards multicultural [education](#) and the nation’s current trend of standardization and high-stakes testing. Scholarly research shows that the emphasis placed on testing and standards, mandated by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, is causing teachers to focus entirely on basic skills in reading, writing, and math (Banks & Banks, 2010). This focus on basic skills is taking much needed time and attention away from multicultural education, and the teaching of social justice skills. These skills are critical to students becoming active citizens that can work together with all different groups to tackle the world’s issues. Thus, the problem and question for me becomes, how do we as educators maintain excellence and equity in our teaching through multicultural education, in the face of the standards and mandates set by NCLB and our state, so that no student-of any group-is left behind?

All Students Left Behind

NCLB was passed with a goal of closing the achievement gap between white students and their low-income and minority peers. However research over the past 10 years has found that the high-stakes testing policies have not improved reading and math achievement across states, and have not significantly narrowed national and state level achievement gaps (Au, 2009). In fact, the high stakes testing and standardization of classrooms has hurt the very students it set out to help. According to Haretos...

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