

SADA

South Australian Debating Association Inc

JUNIOR B, GRAND FINAL

“That NAPLAN results should not be shared with individual students”

1. Type of Topic

This is a normative topic. Normative debates require the affirmative team to propose a model, which is a policy change from the current status quo. The negative team can either support the status quo or provide a countermodel, but should explicitly state their stance to make it clear for the opposition and adjudicator. Teams should spend time detailing their model to ensure that everyone has a clear idea of what they are supporting.

2. Background/context

NAPLAN stands for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy. It is a set of tests sat by all students across the country every two years, starting in Year 3 and ending in Year 9. The primary purpose of NAPLAN is to help governments and education authorities assess the quality of education at schools, and see whether students are reaching important literacy and numeracy goals. This provides evidence about how education programs are working, and suggests areas of improvement. Another important purpose of NAPLAN is to compare the results of students at different schools. This information can be used to see which schools need support in educating their students. This data is then used to assign funding for schools in greater need, or to help parents decide where to send their children to school.

However, in addition to this, students also receive their own results, to know how they did as an individual. This includes a copy of the student’s score in each area (reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy), and also the range for the middle 60% of students, the national average result, and the national minimum standard for each year level. However, this is not a primary purpose of the NAPLAN.

3. Specific Questions for consideration

- What is the purpose of NAPLAN?
- How does knowing their own NAPLAN results affect students?
 - How might it affect their mental health?
 - How might it assist or harm their education?
 - How do students currently benefit from knowing their NAPLAN results?
- How might receiving their child’s individual NAPLAN results affect parents?

- How might parents use this information?
- Is this harmful or beneficial?
- What makes NAPLAN different from other tests?
 - How does this affect the interpretation of the results?

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