

From:  
Miss Marianne Scholem

I am a first-year teacher in a national partnerships secondary school in a low socio-economic area of south-east QLD. During my year 9 English classes this year I tried my utmost to prepare my students to sit the NAPLAN tests. I did this not because I think it was the best use of class time, but rather because that is what all teachers at my school were directed to do. I shudder to think how my students will feel when we inevitably get ranked as "significantly below statistically similar schools" on Myschool yet again this year. It is utterly naive of the government to think that ranking schools doesn't do harm to students and communities. Yes, we all want literate and numerate students at the end of their education, but not every school can be at the top of the pile. If we continue down this English/American path and increase the stakes of standardised testing, I know that many young teachers like myself will become disillusioned and add to the burnout statistics. It simply has to be stopped.