

From:
Mr Jacob Slavin

Senate inquiry - NAPLAN Testing

To whom it may concern,
My name is Jacob Slavin I am currently teaching a year 5/6 class in Western Australia. I was recently shocked when I heard that a proposal has been made to alter the NAPLAN writing genre to a persuasive text.

I feel that this is an extremely difficult form of writing for young students to understand and execute to a standard that will allow a marker to pass judgment on what stage the student is at academically in writing. I feel that it is unreasonable to have students who are trying to become proficient in English Writing expected to write a persuasive text. I feel that it is a genre that doesn't enable the writer to use all of their written skills (grammar and punctuation).

I feel that the short time frame given and lack of pre discussion will be unfair on the students. Students will become disillusioned.

The last time I checked the new national curriculum I didn't see that persuasive texts as becoming a major genre to concentrate on as it is a difficult genre for students who are still experimenting. The students are going to get little joy from their finished piece of work (it will have little creativity or personal meaning to the student).

I hope that this proposal is dismissed as it will not help students with their learning progression which is what getting an education is about.

Thank You for your consideration

Jacob Slavin