Don't Fail Me Because I'm Different: Cultural Bias in the SATs

Khalilah Muhammad
Illinois Wesleyan University

Leah Nillas, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

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DON'T FAIL ME BECAUSE I'M DIFFERENT: CULTURAL BIAS IN THE SATS

Khalilah Muhammad and Leah Nillas*
Educational Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Past research indicates that standardized testing is biased against various individuals (source). This research project expounds upon past research by tailoring its focus to standardized test bias apparent in five elements of culture: race, gender, socio-economic status, heritage, and language. Its goal is to identify elements of cultural bias that are present in such standardized tests as the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Sample SAT test documents were collected and analyzed for cultural bias in terms of race, gender, socio-economic status, heritage, and language. Previous research was used as a guide for determining whether a particular item was biased. Results show that all five elements of cultural bias are present in the SAT, though these biases are not as prevalent as in the past.