

CLASS C T

by senior Abby Lashbrook

Students who have decided to attend college must take the dreaded ACT test. This four hour, fill in the minuscule bubble exam in hopes to achieve a score deemed worthy, is meant to measure one's intelligence.

For students like me, it's about getting the magic number that would somehow make all those long nights of homework and studying worth it.

In that quest for a score that reflects where I think my abilities lie, I have attempted the ACT test five times.

Yes, five. Realize that is equivalent to 20 hours of tedious test taking while sitting in an uncomfortable chair in a room with 100 people I don't know.

To make this horrid experience even worse, I get to anxiously wait three long weeks to see a score that consistently comes up just short. Every.

"I think they are not applicable anymore. A college degree does not guarantee anything anymore. The ACT is another test to try and group us into what we will grow up to be."

- junior Carter Haddeman



"It's a necessary 'evil.' I find the concept stressful and generalized. It's not something you look forward to, but you do it anyways."

- freshman Halle Haack

Time.

Today, I would consider myself an expert on the ACT. I know the drill. I know to arrive at the test center approximately 17 minutes early. I know to stand close to the door and be first in line for registration- just so I could sit in the back. I know to keep my calculator flat against the desk. But, I guess I failed to become an expert on how to do well on the test itself.

Yes, I bought the prep book. Yes, I downloaded the "helpful apps." And yes, I studied frequently. What else could I do? I was stumped. It didn't

down. Rather, it was my education- or lack of.

I figured out that standardized testing requires test-taking knowledge. That means having a strategy and knowing the right way to answer questions.

65% of Hudson 9-12th graders said they HAVE NOT TAKEN the ACT but PLAN ON taking it

I have never learned any of these skills.

The solution: Teach students to take such a test.

An ACT Prep Class is the perfect opportunity for students to begin to prepare for the ACT. They will learn their strengths and weaknesses and develop a strategy to do well on the test.

Dike-New Hartford, a school very similar to our own in size, offers an ACT study/test prep session during early out days for interested students.

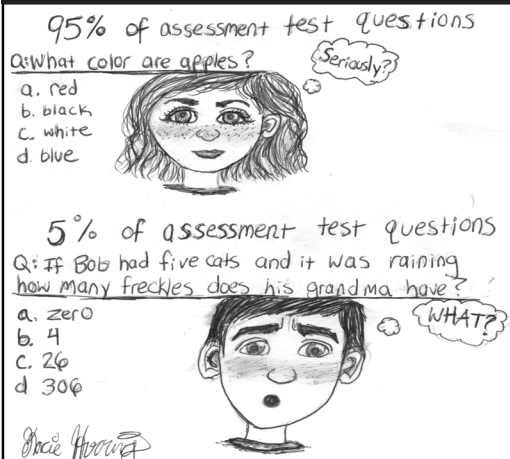
To prepare for this class, they have their students take the PreACT, which they use to help tailor their area of study, catering to the student's individual needs.

At Dike-New Hartford, students have the opportunity to reach their full potential with the help of qualified educators. Sadly at Hudson, it seems students are left to fend for themselves.

The reality is, the ACT exists. Standardized testing exists. Some may believe it is invalid and doesn't correctly measure intelligence, but that doesn't matter.

Until colleges stop placing so much value on this test, high schools need to take responsibility for their students. It's time for Hudson to offer an ACT Prep Course.

Questioning the Questions | by sophomore Kacie Herring



matter how many times I took the test, I failed at getting that magic number.

After reflecting long and hard on my experience, I have concluded that I wasn't the one who let myself

Sittin' with Schwenneker

Words hurt

by sophomore Grace Schwenneker

Every day we are surrounded by people. Now yes, of course, you aren't going to like each person you come into contact with, but how you handle it is what's important.

When you are walking down the hall and you see someone you don't like, how do you deal with it? Do you continue to walk down the hall or do you stop and say or do something to make sure that person knows you don't like them?

For certain people, saying or doing negative things to others doesn't even phase them. Some people could make a nasty comment about someone and continue on with their day. Why? It doesn't affect them.

People don't realize how much words can actually hurt. You could make a comment about someone, thinking that it's nothing and move on, but it could affect that person more than you'd know.

Want to know the solution? Keep your comments to yourself. Don't like someone? Cool. But that doesn't give you the right to tell them.

Do you realize that saying mean things about someone doesn't do anything but make that person feel terrible about themselves? Besides, what do you get out of it, anyway? Do you think putting others down is getting you any higher? It's not. In fact, there are no benefits at all.

Next time you see someone you don't like, I challenge you to choose positivity. Not only should you bite your tongue when such people walk by, instead, do the unthinkable- smile... and mean it.

But don't stop there. Your next step? Think less about how others have supposedly wronged you and actively look for others to help. Lift people up. Say nice things. If you see that one girl or boy sitting alone at lunch, sit with them. Make their day.

Sometimes it just takes little actions like choosing to smile or simply saying "hey." Often, we forget that it's the smaller things that mean the most.

Things to do today:

- ✓ Be nice to everyone
- ✓ Smile :)