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## Standardized Testing: A Mean-spirited Regression

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# Standardized Testing – A Mean-spirited Regression

by Joseph S. Pizzo

Prodigious preparation  
Preponderance of preview plied with presumption  
Consternation-influencing cadence  
Copious inspection inspiring conscripted examination  
Deep meaning and structure  
    sought from mundane surreptitiousness  
Patented prescription purveyed  
    plied by presumptive pundits  
Pedagogy parlayed for profit  
Insidiousness and consternation  
Invalidation  
Insinuation  
Imitation  
Intimidation  
Ambiguity  
Fortuitousness  
Fractiousness  
Viciousness  
Virulence  
Vituperation replacing virtue  
Intimidation replacing inspiration  
Insipidness replacing instinct  
Connectivity and catharsis promised  
Conflagration and consternation delivered

**Joseph S. Pizzo** has taught integrated language arts at the Black River Middle School in Chester, New Jersey, for 42 years. An adjunct professor at Union County College and Centenary University, Pizzo is the NJAMLE Educator of the Year for 2016. An executive board member of NJCTE and a former co-director and Educator of the Year, he also serves on the boards of NJAMLE and NJ Schools to Watch. A member of Fordham University's Digital Literacy Collaborative, Pizzo has written blogs about his digi-poem unit for the US Office of Veterans Affairs, the NEA Foundation, NCTE, and Digital IS. The host of podcasts for NJAMLE, NCTE, and NJCTE, Pizzo is a member of the NJDOE's Council for Teaching and Learning and the author of Barron's *New Jersey ELA/Literacy Test*.