



Facts for High School Teachers



NAEP plays a significant role in American education.

- The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is the only nationally representative assessment of what American students know and can do.
- NAEP is part of the U.S. Department of Education and is mandated by Congress.
- For more than 40 years, NAEP has been measuring student progress in subjects such as the arts, civics, mathematics, reading, science, U.S. history, and writing.
- Educational experts from around the country, including teachers like yourself, are involved in the development of the assessments.

What is your role in NAEP?

- Students look to teachers for guidance and support. You can explain to your students the value and purpose of the assessment. You can also tell your students about the important contribution that they make in taking NAEP.

“Assessment is important so that we can find out how much of the information we’ve taught has actually been absorbed. Without assessment, there is no way to measure that. A national assessment is important so that we can see across the board how we’re doing.”

LETICIA VALDES-MCGUIRE, HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is an essential measurement of student achievement in America.

As a teacher, you recognize how essential a quality education is for all students. NAEP results—or **The Nation’s Report Card**—help the public learn how well our schools are doing.

You play a vital role in this effort. By encouraging your students to do their best, you help ensure that NAEP results really reflect what students know and can do. When students participate and try their best, we get an accurate and valuable portrait of student progress across America.

The schools and students who participate in the test represent schools and students throughout the country. Schools are selected on the basis of their demographics, and students are randomly selected to participate within those schools. Each student’s participation represents hundreds of students in the nation.

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>

“For seniors, NAEP is the culmination of their entire educational experience. I think it’s very important for seniors to have their voices be heard in terms of what their school experience has been like and what they’ve gained from that experience.”

DR. JAMIE ARKIN, HIGH SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It’s important to know that...

No advance preparation is necessary.

- The assessment includes questions on subjects that students encounter everyday; these questions include both multiple-choice and constructed-response questions.
- In addition to the test questions, students answer sections about their background, like classroom experiences and coursetaking.

NAEP takes approximately 90 minutes to complete.

- NAEP is conducted during regular school hours at your school.
- You can review sample materials ahead of time.
- Trained field staff, employed by U.S. Department of Education contractors, administer NAEP.

The following question appeared on a previous NAEP assessment. High school students read a passage about an address on the American broadcasting industry by Newton Minow. Below is a sample student response showing evidence of full comprehension:

What was the main point of Mr. Minow's address?

He is asking the television industry to look at the programs they have on the air and change them so they will educate America's television audience, not just entertain.

All assessment materials are provided.

- The test administrators will give students everything that they need—from the pencils to the assessment booklets.
- Your NAEP State Coordinator will work with a representative from your school to ensure that the assessment is conducted in an efficient manner.

NAEP is confidential.

- NAEP does not report the performance of individual students or schools.
- The assessment does not include personally identifying information.

You can see the results.

- View the results of The Nation’s Report Card at <http://nationsreportcard.gov> or call 1-877-4ED-PUBS to order copies of the report.