

**EPIISODE 6:**  
**Responsibility: From**  
**Journalists to Kobe Bryant**

**CHAPTER 1:**  
**Are Exams the Best**  
**Way to Test Students?**

*Originally Aired:*  
*3/01/2020*



### **TERM TO KNOW—Assessment**

Methods or tools to evaluate a student’s understanding of material and progress.



### **FOR DISCUSSION**

In the video, Riley and Daniel from New Zealand address the topic of standardized testing when they ask, “shall we change the ways we examine and assess?” Ask students to discuss or write down their perspective on whether schools “should do away with tests?” Prompt students to provide at least two supporting arguments or examples.



### **INVESTIGATIVE QUESTION**

For the first time since state tests were required in schools, the United States allowed testing waivers to all states and territories during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students were not required to take statewide exams in 2019-2020, and many colleges and universities did not require college entrance exams.

- How did testing become a part of your state or territory’s education system? Go online and research when your state mandated (required) assessments.
  - What are the assessments?
  - At what grade level are state-wide exams first administered?
  - Does your state require an “exit exam” in order to graduate from high school?
- How do you feel about standardized testing?
- Do you think there should be a standard of learning and progress at different stages of your education? Why/why not?

**Sources:** “Assessment,” *The Glossary of Educational Reform*, 10 November 2015, [www.edglossary.org/assessment/#:~:text=In%20education%2C%20the%20term%20assessment,or%20educational%20needs%20of%20students](http://www.edglossary.org/assessment/#:~:text=In%20education%2C%20the%20term%20assessment,or%20educational%20needs%20of%20students). Accessed 5 November 2020.

Gewertz, Catherine, “It’s Official: All States Have Been Excused From Statewide Testing This Year,” 2 April 2020, [blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/04/coronavirus-no-state-testing-essa.html#:~:text=Every%20single%20state%20has%20won,states%20to%20test%20students%20achievement](https://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/2020/04/coronavirus-no-state-testing-essa.html#:~:text=Every%20single%20state%20has%20won,states%20to%20test%20students%20achievement). Accessed 5 November 2020.

Gewertz, Catherine, “What Tests Does Each State Require,” 5 March 2019, [www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/what-tests-does-each-state-require.html](http://www.edweek.org/ew/section/multimedia/what-tests-does-each-state-require.html). Accessed 5 November 2020.

**EPISODE 6:**  
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**CHAPTER 2:**  
**Journalists Uncover**  
**the Truth About**  
**Uighurs in China**

*Originally Aired:*  
*3/01/2020*



**TERM TO KNOW—*Uighur***

A Muslim minority in China who comprise less than one percent of the population. Uighurs are Turkic speaking, and have been targeted by the Chinese government as being ‘disloyal.’ They face strict surveillance, and an estimated one million Uighurs have been arrested and sent to detainment or concentration camps. The Chinese government denies the existence of these camps, instead maintaining that the camps are schools for ‘reeducation.’



**FOR DISCUSSION**

Journalists used first-hand accounts from Uighur refugees and satellite imagery to challenge the Chinese government’s claims denying the existence of concentration or detainment camps of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang province. Encourage students to discuss the following prompt:

- Why do you think the Chinese government is targeting the Uighurs, a religious minority community, in Xinjiang province? Consider why the Chinese government might regard the Uighur community as ‘outsiders,’ and the economic value of the Uighur region.



**WRITING PROMPT**

BBC journalist, John Sudworth, was allowed into the ‘camps’ in Xinjiang under heavy supervision. When he asked one of the inmates if they had chosen to be there, the reply was: “Yes. I was affected by extremism. I came here to transform my thoughts.” Have students consider:

- The inmate’s response;
- Sudworth’s interviews with Uighurs outside of China; and
- The resistance of authorities to allow visits to the ‘camps’ or ‘schools.’

What questions might you ask to understand the truth surrounding that inmate’s life and why they are in detainment?

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**CHAPTER 3:**  
**A Tribute to Kobe**

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### TERM TO KNOW—*Legacy*

The lasting meaning or inspiration someone represents to others, usually as a positive role model.



### FOR DISCUSSION

In January 2020, basketball star Kobe Bryant died in a helicopter crash with his 13-year-old daughter and seven other people. Teenagers from Argentina, Italy, and the Philippines share Kobe's influence on their lives and aspirations. Prompt students to discuss or write about what Kobe Bryant meant to youth all around the world and why he was a powerful inspiration.



### LINK TO ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Ask students to examine part of a [Los Angeles mural](#) by Mr. Brainwash. Ask how the mural reflects how people viewed Kobe Bryant.
2. Invite students to find other worldwide visual tributes to Kobe Bryant and interpret them.

