Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PA Standardized Testing article

**Directions: Read the article you were given, and use the information you gain from it to answer the first set of questions below, ON YOUR OWN. Then, discuss the second set of questions with your classmates, and come up with a consensus answer for each of those questions.**

*Part I-answer these questions, ALONE, based on the information from the article*

1. What 3 groups does Alison McDowell believe are negatively impacted by standardized testing?
2. How is the class of 2017 (and subsequent classes) going to be impacted by standardized testing differently from previous PA students?
3. Explain how the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law is related/involved with the Keystone Tests.
4. Identify the reason Donna Cooper gave for ENDING standardized testing, AND the reason she gave IN FAVOR of standardized testing.
5. What did Donna Cooper say was the real problem with standardized testing is?
6. Explain what the SPP is
7. What was the Philadelphia City Council surprised to learn, with regards to how standardized tests were administered?

*Part II-discuss these questions with your classmates & come up with an answer you agree on*

1. Since NCLB does not require students earn a proficient (or higher) score on the Keystone tests in order to graduate high school, why do you think the state does?
2. If it cost between $65-$80 million to develop & implement the 3 current Keystone exams, and 2 more are planned, how much do you think it will cost the state to develop & implement the next 2 tests? Explain how you came up with your prediction.

1. Explain how the SPP could cause teacher to focus on preparing for standardized tests, rather than a more rounded, diverse curriculum.
2. Standardized tests are required as part of the NCLB law. If states/school districts don’t abide by the NCLB requirements, they may lose any funding they get from the federal government for education. Based on that knowledge, AND what you’ve read in this article, do you think standardized tests are a good idea or not? Explain your answer.