

# SAT WARS

*The Case for Test-Optional  
College Admissions*

EDITED BY  
**Joseph A. Soares**

FOREWORD BY DAVID HAWKINS

## SAT Wars:

### The Case for Test-Optional College Admissions

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Foreword by David Hawkins

"This book is an important contribution to the reassessment of the use of standardized tests in college admissions....Colleges that are well-prepared for a discussion about standardized admission tests will understand how their research aligns with the information provided in this publication" —**David Hawkins**, National Association for College Admission Counseling

What can a college admissions officer safely predict about the future of a 17-year-old? Are the best and the brightest students the ones who can check off the most correct boxes on a multiple-choice exam? Or are there better ways of measuring ability and promise? In this penetrating and revealing look at high-stakes standardized admissions tests, Joseph Soares demonstrates the far-reaching and mostly negative impact of the tests on American life and calls for nothing less than a national policy change.

*SAT Wars* presents a roadmap for rethinking college admissions that moves us past the statistically weak and socially divisive SAT/ACT. The author advocates for evaluation tools with a greater focus on what youth actually accomplish in high school as a more reliable indicator of qualities that really matter in one's life and to one's ability to contribute to society. This up-to-date book features contributions by well-known experts, including a piece from Daniel Golden, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting in the *Wall Street Journal* on admissions, and a chapter on alternative tests from Robert Sternberg, who is the world's most-cited living authority on educational research.

As we continue to debate the use and misuse of standardized testing, *SAT Wars* will be important reading for a wide audience, including college administrators and faculty, high school guidance counselors, education journalists, and parents.

#### **SAT Wars Features:**

- An authoritative combination of voices, including college presidents, admissions deans, scholars from economics, history, and sociology, and test-industry participants.
- New information on the racial and gender biases built into the SAT.
- The only independent case studies of the limitations of the new SAT.
- A step-by-step guide on how college admissions can go test-optional.
- Alternative tests to SAT/ACT developed by Robert Sternberg.

**Joseph A. Soares** is Professor of Sociology at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Contributors: **Martha Allman, Richard C. Atkinson, Chang Young Chung, Christopher Cornwell, John Douglas, Thomas J. Espenshade, Saul Geiser, Daniel Golden, David Hawkins, John Latting, Charles Murray, David B. Mustard, Kevin Rask, Jay Rosner, Chole Melissa Rothstein, Robert Schaeffer, Robert J. Sternberg, Jill Tiefenthaler, Jessica Van Parys, and Teresa Wonnell.**

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