

INITIATION OF A LEAGUE SCHOLASTIC CONTEST

by *Joe*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Testing as a general process or technique must be as old as civilization. Evidence for that statement is inferential, but one can look back some 2400 years and find definite evidence. The Socratic method was a method of instruction based upon questioning. Questioning is testing, if a broad definition is used. If a narrow definition is preferred, questioning is, at the very least, one aspect of testing. However, testing as an objective paper-and-pencil technique for measuring school achievement is a process or technique of the twentieth century. In a sense, then, this report will be concerned with a modern approach to an ancient procedure.

Today in the twentieth century in our secondary schools there is a great amount of emphasis put on areas other than that of academics. Sports, music and other extra-class activities seem to share, if not dominate the better part of our educational endeavors. As a result of this, it was conceived that academics should be put back into their proper frame of reference. One method that is unique in its approach is to conduct a scholastic contest among high schools in the same manner as an athletic contest is conducted. Chosen candidates would compete with one another in given subject areas using standardized tests to measure the degree to which they have acquired knowledges, skills and understandings

that are primarily cognitive in nature. On the basis of the test results, individual winners would be determined for each subject entry and points would be given for first, second, and third place winners. On the basis of total points accumulated by students from their respective schools, each high school would then be ranked according to the number of points accumulated.

II. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to present one method that would serve as a means of giving recognition to high school students who excel in the academic areas. This study will explore both the means and results of conducting such a contest.

Objectives. The main goal of such a contest is to stress the fact that the reason for any testing is, above all, to help the students better understand themselves.¹ The purpose is to aid in the presenting of a complete picture of individual students and to give them feedback concerning how they performed on a given test. Not only could a contest of this nature serve as a check to determine if teaching material is being covered but it could give

¹Arthur E. Traxler, "Some Misconceptions About Standardized Testing," Education, XXV (March, 1967), p. 408.