**Zahra Movahed**

**GRE – Writing – Homework 3**

**The author wisely points out the negative influence of competition for high grades on learning among students, which is one of the most important issues in the education system. In my opinion, this competition could affect students both educationally and mentally in a negative way if they are not mature enough to understand the goal of learning and the concept of competition.**

**Speaking of educational effect, students’ competition for higher grades, especially in lower levels, contradict with the high purpose of education. As we know, the main goal of the educational system is to improve student’s level of knowledge, helping them to find out their interests, and depending on each major, teaching them the necessary skills to use probably in their life and future occupation. Nevertheless, when students’ efforts just are measured by grades especially in lower levels like elementary schools, they inadvertently try to reach higher grades rather than learning efficiently, actually, they just memorize apparently more important parts for exams. They may even forget what they have studied after a while because there was no deep understanding of concepts and the only purpose of studying was passing the exams with high scores. Therefore, a worthless competition will be created with no valuable achievement and some ignorant students with high score reports will be the result at the end of the year.**

**On the other hand, grade-based education could cause serious mental damages to young students with lower grades and influence their learning efficiency. In public belief, the student with high grades is more diligent and more valuable than another one with lower grades. This belief usually results in different behavior between these two students in society. It has been observed that even parents treat differently with the child with better scores and compare their children’s intelligence with the grade parameter. They usually encourage the apparently smart one (based on higher grades) and treat him better. These inappropriate behaviors affect the other mentally especially if he is emotionally immature: they probably make him frustrated and reduce his self-confidence that is needed for efficient learning; even he could lose his interest in higher education levels forever. To avoid these harmful effects and have a high-quality educational system, a better method for measurement should be used.**

**Of course, every method has its own benefits and cannot be rejected completely. For some levels of study and after a specific range of age that students pass the emotional period of their childhood, their sense of competition to reach better scores could be actually beneficial and motivates them. To be more specific, in higher levels of education, since almost all students follow their own interests without any imposed pressure and they have a good understanding of the importance of deep learning on their future job, they will study more accurately and purposefully. Therefore, they will not study just for high grades but for improving their knowledge; on the other hand, they understand the correct meaning of competition and, as a result, this competition will be a motivation factor for them and they would use it to get better every day.**

**In conclusion, encourage students to compete by grade-based measurement is could be a good method if it is used for the right level of education. Understanding the concept of competition needs emotional and mental maturity to use it correctly; otherwise, it would cause inefficient learning and damages in the educational system.**