In your groups, come up with responses to each of the quotes below.

**Exercise One: Testing**

**The Quote:** “The NCLB Act will strengthen Title I accountability by requiring States to implement statewide accountability systems covering all public schools and students. These systems must be based on challenging State standards in reading and mathematics, **annual testing for all students in grades 3-8**, and **annual statewide progress objectives** ensuring that all groups of students **reach proficiency within 12 years**.”

**The Response:** What do you make of the amount of testing and the ages? Also, do you think that all students can reach proficiency by 2013?

**Exercise Two: Federal Money**

**The Quote:** “To help ensure that LEAs offer meaningful choices, the new law requires **school districts to spend up to 20 percent of their Title I allocations to provide school choice** and supplemental educational services to eligible students.”

**The Response:** What could be some of the effects of schools diverting 20% of Title 1 Monies, monies aimed at helping poorer schools, to provide for “school choice”?

**Exercise Three: Reading**

**The Quote:** “To accomplish this goal, the new Reading First initiative would significantly increase the Federal investment in **scientifically based reading instruction programs** in the **early grades**.”

**The Response:** What could be some of the positive, and negative, effects of using “scientifically based” reading programs with young children?

**Exercise Four: Second Language Students**

**The Quote:** “The new formula program will facilitate the comprehensive planning by States and school districts needed to ensure implementation of **programs that benefit all limited English proficient students** by helping them **learn English and meet the same high academic standards as other students**.”

**The Response:** What might be benefits of this sort of approach to working with students who are not native speakers of English? What might be some problems?

**Exercise Five: Student Safety**

**The Quote:** “As proposed in **No Child Left Behind**, States must allow students who attend a persistently dangerous school, or who are victims of violent crime at school, to transfer to a safe school.”

**The Response:** What do you make of this provision? What might be some positive effects on schools? Negative ones?