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Line Drawing

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"It's very easy to know what someone else is thinking about, but it's another story." So remarked William J. Bennett, director of the Department of Education, at a recent conference on higher education. Bennett said that he was concerned about the growing importance of race and ethnicity in college admissions. He cited a recent study by the National Center for Education Statistics, which found that black students were more likely to be admitted to college than white students, despite having lower test scores.

"I think the problem is that we've allowed race to become a tool for political advantage," Bennett said. "The government has given universities the power to consider race in admissions, but it hasn't given them the guidance on how to do it."

Bennett suggested that universities should consider other factors, such as academic achievement and personal qualities, when making admissions decisions. He also suggested that the government should provide more guidance to universities on how to use race in admissions.

"We need to have a clear national policy on this issue," he said. "We can't have a system where some universities are doing it one way and others are doing it another."