

**Jennifer Robble, Student**

My final year of high school was the first year in which the Common Core went into effect. I loved learning and the entire concept of education until it became simply about passing. There is a larger issue at play here in the structure of our school systems, however, Common Core is the manifestation of the absolute worst idea to reform education. It is so tragic that kids are no longer encouraged to learn all that they can, but rather simply to learn just what is needed in order to pass an arbitrary test, on which their teachers salary (and job) is dependent. I can't imagine why government officials in America are so desperate to produce a generation of people who mock learning and are incapable of creative, innovative thought. I urge people who brush this issue off to consider that we are raising the voters of tomorrow without the thirst for knowledge that has proudly been passed for one generation to the next. And in a culture where citizens are apathetic toward learning, how can there ever be innovation? How will problems ever be solved? How will anyone ever benefit aside from the few wealthy politicians who sought monetary gain from melting the minds of America's youth and and beating down the morale of our most effective weapon-- teachers?