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The big public outcry over the Common Core standards is really an outcry over the roll out thereof and their connection to high stakes testing for students and teachers. It was a classic case of testing before curriculum was developed.

The initial purpose of the Common Core was to prepare students for life long learning. Yet, we test them with cumulative tools that might or might not shed light on their skills as life long learners. Further, test results have been used punitively to the benefit of no one and the frustration of many.

The standards themselves are not the issue. It is the testing and the politics that are the problem.