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As the grandmother of a 4th grade student and as a retired teacher and administrator I cannot but ask the Question: is education a test? Should our entire system be based on test scores? With the new common core approach we are basically killing learning. Students and teachers are racing to meet testing deadlines and criteria. Where is real learning and problem solving I all of this?

What I constantly see from the educational "professional" is the search for a boxed product that will fit all students regardless of size and shape. Following each new revelation, is the expenditure of hundreds of thousands, actually millions, of dollars on curriculum materials. There is something wrong with this approach. Were that money put to use in the classroom to offer teaching assistants and reduce class sizes, the results would probably be astounding. There is nothing wrong with the core curriculum. It professes to teach reading, writing, math and problem solving. We are not reinventing the wheel here, but rather searching for methods that will serve our students, make learning a lifelong process and encourage questioning and problem solving. Let teachers do the work they are trained for, each in their own way.