

## **Kenneth Kaplan, Teacher, Byram Hills High School**

"The pacing of the rollout of the Common Core Standards has proven problematic for numerous reasons:

- 1) At the higher levels (High School English CC Regents Exam) students were given an exam of much greater difficulty with little time to prepare. In a sense, it was like a ball player who had hit High School pitching and the following year be expected to hit a Jason Degrass fastball at Citi Field. It was too much too fast.
- 2) As an educator, we had not been able to lay a foundation for the transition. New Curriculum had to be developed and refined, and there was little time to do that.
- 3) There was no little support and training available on the new demands. courses filled up quickly, and there really was not other colleagues with experience to assist in development of materials and techniques to prepare.
4. Great tension was inflicted on the students as the fear of the new exam, with the pass or don't graduate aspect of the exam was proliferated.
5. We now teach to the test, the worst of all scenarios for an educator."