

## **Christina Mitchell, Teacher, Irvington Middle School**

The common core standards are having a negative impact on students and teachers. It has altered the curriculum in a way that doesn't necessarily work for all students. It has created a litmus test that does not speak to the learning differences and styles of students. Teaching is now more about getting students to do well on tests than doing what is BEST for students. Common core is fundamentally destroying education. Ironically, students now have major gaps in their skills and understanding because of common core. As a teacher for over 15 years, I am starting to see students who lack basic fundamental knowledge that is essential to building knowledge and thinking critically. This is undoubtedly due to common core. Students are over stressed. Anxiety level in students is so high, that I have more students seeking physiological counseling (in school and privately) than ever before. As a teacher, common core is stifling, demoralizing, and goes against the fundamental principles of good teaching. Common core is a travesty and demonstrates that government is failing to improve education in the name of improving data and at the expense of children.