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"Although I believe the Common Core Learning Standards for math have good intentions, some are well beyond the years of what a student should be learning. It has been proven that their brains are still developing, so some of the material asking to be taught is just too difficult. I am all for higher order thinking, but when some of my students cannot divide by 1 without using a calculator, this seems near impossible. I remember learning to factor trinomials as a junior in high school, and now freshman are being asked to do so. From experience, this is by far one of the hardest things for these freshman to do, and I believe it is because they just are not ready to process the steps to do so. It is very discouraging seeing students try and try and continue to fail. Even students who are the highest performing in the class are literally crying at their seat during the Common Core Exams and throwing their hands in the air out of frustration. I hate to see my students think they cannot do it because they are being asked to do things they just cannot do at their age. Even Alg. 2 is turning into Calculus...RIDICULOUS! They said the standards were not going to be as many, but be more in depth; I still find I cannot even come close to finishing the curriculum by the end of the year because students cannot understand the basics, so how I am supposed to move on and go more in depth? Something needs to change...and it needed to change a long time ago...especially because teachers are being held accountable for students' performance!!!!"