

**Nicholas Tampio, Teacher, Fordham University (though I speak for myself)**

My wife and I became education activists in 2012 when New York started to implement the Common Core.

After reading many primary and secondary sources, here is what we have learned: the standards themselves are part of the problem. Parents are not rebelling against the Common Core because the implementation has been done poorly, but because it has been done well.

I recently published an op-ed in the Journal News on the first anchor standard. The standard says, in a nutshell, that you should be able to provide evidence from a text when answering a question about it. That is an important skill. But when that becomes the focus of one's education, then one is looking at an education based on answering questions about short passages of informational text. There is no reason to work on reading long books, doing research with many sources, or writing poetry. A friend told me that her kids are in ELA worksheet hell. I see what she is talking about, and I don't want this for my kids.

Our school district was outstanding and now it is geared toward preparing children for standardized tests in two subjects--or more precisely, a narrow interpretation of math and English. That's not acceptable for my kids, or yours. That is why we will fight the Common Core, or whatever it is renamed, until it is gone from the state.