

## Assessment

- Assessment = standardized/summative testing
- Can't have school without grades
- Winners and losers: not everyone is good at tests
- Validity???? (Not a part of public thinking)
- Tests are objective; critics are self-interested
- Tests provide information on individuals
- Individuals learn differently
- Teaching to the test is a bad idea



## The System

- ????
- Teachers are the system
- Willpower: better individual decisions, more discipline
- Tangible Triad (students, teachers, and parents)
- Good teacher = caring teacher
- Bad teacher = self-interested

# What's in the swamp of... Common Core Implementation

## Skills and Learning

- Student = passive container; pour learning in
- Skills = the basics (limited, linear, hierarchical)
- Compartmentalized learning
- Consumerism: individual accumulation is the goal
- Naturalism: skills just develop
- Learning is hard; if it isn't hard, it isn't learning
- Technology in education = faster, fancier books
- Tots and teens (nothing in between)
- Social & emotional skills are important for life and work
- Hands-on learning, interaction enhance attention



## Equity

- Some people/cultures just don't value education
- Zero-sum: more for them = less for us
- Separate fates
- Fatalism: disparities are just part of how the world works
- Consumerism: education is a limited commodity
- Differential access is a function of the free market
- Americans strive for equity
- Disadvantage is regrettable

## Time and Space

- Compartmentalized learning
- Nostalgia: It worked for me
- Zero-sum: more formal learning = less informal learning
- Space = location (not configuration)
- Real world learning is about practical skills
- Kids just need to be kids
- Attention is like a battery; it needs to be recharged
- Real-world learning is powerful

## Reform

- Nostalgia: it used to work
- Determinism: broken beyond repair
- Solution = caring teachers in, uncaring teachers out
- Technology is dangerous and distracting
- Reform is back to basics
- Consumerism: schools should be run like businesses
- Unions block reform by protecting bad teachers
- Education is a big, important problem
- Americans are problem-solvers

