

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Engage in the debate. Be a Common Core champion.

SUBMITTING LETTERS

(These sample letters will get you started. Either fill in the blanks and email it to your local newspaper or create your own. When submitting a Letter to the Editor, include your phone number or email address. The editors will want to contact you to confirm that you are the writer.)

WHERE TO SUBMIT

There are many other newspapers in Orange County. Most of them are weekly publications and are devoted to news in a single city. Many of these papers are owned by either the Times or the Register.

When talking to an editor, ask what other local publications would consider publishing your letter.

NEWSPAPERS IN ORANGE COUNTY

The Los Angeles Times

letters@latimes.com, 1.800.LATIMES, ext. 74511

The Orange County Register

letters@ocregister.com

Avery Bissett, editor for letters

abissett@ocregister.com, 714.796.3644

Letter #1

As a parent, I feel very fortunate that my children will benefit from California's higher education standards called Common Core. That's because I believe Common Core will help our children develop important life skills, such as critical thinking. Going forward, our kids can use these skills to make informed choices, get a job and stand on their own two feet.

Here's an example of what I mean. The cell phone in my pocket looks very different from the one I had when my *[daughter or son]* was born. It's staggering to think of the skills students will need to be successful in college and throughout their careers. In fact, we are hearing from university administrators and business leaders that students need to be better prepared in order to be successful. This doesn't mean they need to memorize more information. It means they need to learn to analyze information, think things through and solve problems.

Letter #2

California's Common Core educational standards are helping prepare students to keep up and be competitive in today's workforce and in the future. Common Core is focusing on critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication.

One of the things I value is that local teachers maintain control of their classrooms. Common Core sets out what each student is expected to know by the end of the school year. However, the standards do not tell the teacher how to teach. The curriculum, specific books, lesson plans and classroom exercises are left up to each district to decide on its own. By doing this, the core learning standards are allowing individual communities to tailor learning exercises and lessons to their own students.

Because of Common Core, I believe that my *[daughter or son]* and *[his/her]* classmates will stand a better chance of gaining the skills they need to be successful and have a good life.