

# The New York Times

## The Debate Over the Common Core

To the Editor,

David Brooks caricatures opponents of the Common Core standards as hyperbolic talk-radio hosts or self-interested unionists. He doesn't mention that education experts from institutions as diverse as the Brookings Institution, the Hoover Institution and the Cato Institute have analyzed the Common Core and explained why politically imposed, uniform standards won't work.

Mr. Brooks repeats the notion that the Common Core was "state-led" and that adoption by the states was voluntary, conveniently ignoring that the Obama administration did not just "encourage" adoption, but coerced it by making big stimulus dollars hinge on adoption, as well as relief from the disastrous No Child Left Behind. Apparently, one man's "circus" is another's "informed public."

NEAL P. McCLUSKEY  
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