

against school john taylor gatto

against school john taylor gatto is a compelling critique of the modern education system, authored by the renowned educator and writer John Taylor Gatto. This article explores Gatto's arguments and the underlying reasons for his opposition to compulsory schooling, examining the historical context, social implications, and lasting impact of his work. Readers will gain insight into Gatto's perspective on how traditional schooling restricts creativity, stifles independent thought, and fails to prepare students for real-life challenges. By drawing on key themes from "Against School," such as institutional control, the hidden curriculum, and alternative approaches to learning, this article provides a comprehensive overview of Gatto's philosophy. Whether you are a parent, educator, student, or someone interested in education reform, this analysis helps you understand why Gatto's ideas continue to spark debate and inspire change. The article delivers factual information, detailed explanations, and practical perspectives, ensuring a thorough understanding of Gatto's influential work. Read on to explore the origins, critiques, and solutions presented in "Against School" by John Taylor Gatto.

- Understanding John Taylor Gatto and "Against School"
- Historical Background of Compulsory Schooling
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- The Hidden Curriculum and Its Impacts
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Understanding John Taylor Gatto and "Against School"

Who is John Taylor Gatto?

John Taylor Gatto was a distinguished educator, author, and speaker, well-known for his outspoken views on the shortcomings of the American education system. He taught in New York City public schools for nearly three decades and was awarded the New York State Teacher of the Year honor. Gatto's firsthand experience in classrooms shaped his understanding of the systemic

issues inherent in compulsory schooling, leading him to become a vocal advocate for education reform and alternative methods of learning.

Overview of “Against School”

“Against School” is one of Gatto’s most influential essays, published in The Atlantic in 2003. In this work, he argues that the purpose of modern education is not to foster independent thought or creativity, but rather to produce compliant workers and citizens. Gatto contends that the institutional structure of schools discourages critical thinking and self-reliance, instead promoting conformity and obedience. The essay challenges readers to reconsider the true purpose of education and to seek solutions beyond traditional schooling.

Historical Background of Compulsory Schooling

The Origins of Modern Schooling

Compulsory schooling in the United States originated in the 19th century, influenced by European models designed to create a disciplined and uniform populace. Early advocates believed that standardized education would strengthen national identity and prepare children for industrial society. However, Gatto points out that these systems were often created with the intent to limit individual autonomy and reinforce social hierarchies. This historical context is essential to understanding the roots of the issues Gatto identifies in “Against School.”

The Purpose Behind Compulsory Education Laws

Gatto argues that compulsory education laws were not primarily intended to benefit students, but rather to serve the interests of government and industry. By mandating attendance, the system ensures social control and economic predictability. According to Gatto, this approach reduces education to a set of standardized procedures, stripping away the individuality and creativity that true learning requires.

- Promoting uniformity in thought and behavior
- Preparing children for industrial and bureaucratic work
- Maintaining social order and control

Key Arguments in “Against School”

Schools as Instruments of Social Control

One of the central claims in “Against School” is that schools function as instruments of social control. Gatto posits that the rigid structure, compulsory attendance, and standardized curriculum are designed to produce obedient citizens rather than critical thinkers. He points to the ways in which teachers and administrators enforce conformity, discourage questioning, and limit opportunities for creative exploration.

The Impact on Creativity and Independent Learning

Gatto emphasizes that traditional schooling undermines creativity and independent learning. The repetitive nature of classroom routines, focus on standardized testing, and lack of personalized instruction restrict students' natural curiosity. According to Gatto, genuine learning occurs when students are free to pursue their interests, explore diverse subjects, and engage with real-world challenges.

The Hidden Curriculum and Its Impacts

Defining the Hidden Curriculum

The “hidden curriculum” refers to the implicit lessons and values conveyed by schools, beyond the official syllabus. Gatto argues that students learn more from these unspoken rules than from academic content. The hidden curriculum includes lessons on hierarchy, obedience, punctuality, and passive acceptance of authority. Gatto suggests that these lessons are detrimental to personal development and democratic society.

Consequences for Student Development

The impact of the hidden curriculum can be far-reaching. Students may internalize a sense of dependency, lose motivation for self-directed learning, and develop a fear of making mistakes. Gatto believes that this environment discourages innovation and initiative, resulting in graduates who struggle to think critically or adapt to changing circumstances.

Criticisms of Traditional Education Models

Standardization and Testing

Gatto criticizes the emphasis on standardization and high-stakes testing in modern schools. He argues that these practices prioritize measurable outcomes over meaningful learning, reducing education to a series of benchmarks and scores. This system, he contends, fails to recognize individual strengths and interests, leading to disengagement and underachievement.

Teacher Authority and Student Compliance

Another criticism revolves around the dynamics of teacher authority and student compliance. Gatto suggests that the hierarchical structure of schools reinforces passive learning, where students are expected to absorb information and follow instructions without question. This model, according to Gatto, limits intellectual growth and contributes to a culture of conformity.

Alternatives to Conventional Schooling

Homeschooling and Unschooling

In response to the limitations of traditional schools, Gatto advocates for homeschooling and unschooling as viable alternatives. These approaches prioritize individualized learning, allowing students to shape their own educational experiences based on interests and real-world inquiry. Homeschooling provides flexibility, while unschooling rejects formal curricula in favor of experiential learning.

Project-Based and Experiential Education

Project-based and experiential learning models offer additional alternatives, focusing on hands-on activities, collaboration, and problem-solving. Gatto highlights the success of these approaches in fostering creativity, motivation, and practical skills. Schools and programs that embrace these methods often report higher levels of student engagement and achievement.

1. Personalized learning plans
2. Mentorship opportunities
3. Real-world projects and internships
4. Community involvement
5. Flexible schedules

Legacy and Influence of Gatto's Work

Impact on Education Reform

John Taylor Gatto's work has had a lasting impact on education reform movements. His critiques have inspired educators, parents, and policymakers to rethink the goals and methods of schooling. Many alternative education programs, advocacy organizations, and grassroots initiatives cite Gatto's work as a foundational influence in promoting more holistic and student-centered approaches.

Continuing Relevance of "Against School"

The arguments presented in "Against School" remain relevant in ongoing debates over educational policy and practice. As concerns about student well-being, creativity, and adaptability grow, Gatto's insights continue to challenge conventional wisdom and spark meaningful conversations about the future of education. His emphasis on autonomy, curiosity, and lifelong learning serves as a reminder of the true purpose of education in shaping productive and engaged citizens.

Q&A: Trending Questions about "Against School" by John Taylor Gatto

Q: What is the main argument of "Against School" by John Taylor Gatto?

A: The main argument is that compulsory schooling stifles creativity and independent thought, functioning primarily as a system of social control rather than genuine education.

Q: How did John Taylor Gatto's experience as a teacher influence his views?

A: Gatto's decades of teaching in public schools exposed him to the limitations and negative impacts of standardized education, shaping his critique and advocacy for reform.

Q: What is meant by the “hidden curriculum” in schools?

A: The hidden curriculum refers to the unwritten lessons about conformity, obedience, and hierarchy that schools teach, often at the expense of creativity and independence.

Q: What alternatives to traditional schooling does Gatto propose?

A: Gatto recommends homeschooling, unschooling, and experiential learning models that prioritize individualized, interest-driven education over standardized curricula.

Q: How has “Against School” influenced education reform?

A: The essay has inspired many educators and parents to pursue alternative education paths and advocate for student-centered reforms in the schooling system.

Q: What criticisms does Gatto have about standardized testing?

A: Gatto argues that standardized testing reduces education to measurable outcomes, ignoring individual strengths and fostering disengagement among students.

Q: Why does Gatto believe schools promote conformity?

A: He contends that institutional structures, rigid routines, and authority-based models of teaching encourage compliance and discourage critical thinking.

Q: What lasting impact has John Taylor Gatto had on education?

A: Gatto’s work continues to influence discussions on educational policy, inspiring alternative models and ongoing debates about the purpose and structure of schooling.

Q: Are Gatto's ideas relevant to education today?

A: Yes, his critiques remain significant as educators and policymakers seek ways to foster creativity, autonomy, and lifelong learning in students.

Q: What is the purpose of compulsory education according to Gatto?

A: Gatto believes compulsory education was designed to serve government and industrial interests by producing obedient, standardized citizens rather than independent thinkers.

[Against School John Taylor Gatto](#)

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Against School: John Taylor Gatto's Powerful Critique of Modern Education

Are you disillusioned with the current education system? Do you feel like something is fundamentally broken, leaving students unfulfilled and unprepared for the real world? Then you're not alone. John Taylor Gatto, a highly decorated New York City teacher who later became a vocal critic of public schooling, spent years dissecting the system from the inside, ultimately concluding that it is not only ineffective but actively harmful. This post delves into Gatto's compelling arguments against school, presented in his seminal work and subsequent writings, examining his key critiques and their lasting relevance. We'll explore his perspectives on the hidden curriculum, the indoctrination of conformity, and his vision for a more liberating and empowering alternative.

H2: John Taylor Gatto: A Maverick Educator Turned Critic

John Taylor Gatto wasn't just some disgruntled teacher; he was a three-time New York City Teacher of the Year. This remarkable achievement highlights the credibility of his subsequent criticisms. His years of experience within the system allowed him to witness firsthand its shortcomings and the detrimental effects on students. Gatto's disillusionment stemmed not from personal grievances but from a deep concern for the future of education and the well-being of children. He argued that the current model serves not to educate, but rather to produce compliant workers for a predetermined social structure.

H2: The Hidden Curriculum: More Than Just Reading and Writing

Gatto's central argument centers on the concept of the "hidden curriculum." This isn't the officially stated curriculum of textbooks and lesson plans, but rather the underlying, often unspoken, goals and values that the school system subtly instills in students. He argues that this hidden curriculum prioritizes obedience, punctuality, conformity, and the acceptance of authority – traits beneficial to a corporate structure but detrimental to independent thought and critical thinking.

H3: Obedience Over Inquiry: The Suppression of Critical Thinking

Gatto meticulously documented how school systematically trains children to obey without question. The rigid structure, standardized testing, and emphasis on rote memorization, he argued, stifle creativity and independent thought. Students are rewarded for conformity and punished for deviation, creating an environment that discourages intellectual curiosity and independent exploration. This, he argued, creates a generation ill-equipped to challenge the status quo or think critically about the world around them.

H3: The Time-Wasting Nature of the School Day: An Engineered Boredom

Gatto didn't shy away from criticizing the sheer inefficiency of the school day. He believed the structure—ringing bells, scheduled breaks, and compartmentalized subjects—was designed not for learning, but for control and management. This artificially structured day, he argued, leads to boredom and disengagement, creating a cycle of apathy and resentment towards education itself.

H2: Gatto's Alternatives: Beyond the Walls of Traditional Schooling

While Gatto was highly critical of traditional schooling, his work wasn't merely a condemnation. He proposed alternative models, emphasizing self-directed learning, individualized education, and mentorship. He championed homeschooling and unschooling, advocating for a learning environment that fosters creativity, curiosity, and genuine intellectual exploration.

H3: The Importance of Mentorship and Apprenticeship

Gatto believed strongly in the power of mentorship and apprenticeship. He argued that learning should be a collaborative process, guided by experienced individuals who can tailor their instruction to the unique needs and interests of the learner. This hands-on, personalized approach, he contended, was far more effective than the impersonal, one-size-fits-all approach of traditional schooling.

H3: Redefining Education: A Focus on Real-World Skills and Knowledge

Gatto's vision of education extended beyond academic subjects. He stressed the importance of practical skills, emotional intelligence, and the development of a strong work ethic. He argued that education should equip individuals not just for employment but for a fulfilling and meaningful life.

H2: The Enduring Relevance of Gatto's Critique

Despite being written years ago, Gatto's critiques remain strikingly relevant in today's educational landscape. The concerns he raised about standardized testing, the emphasis on conformity, and the stifling of creativity continue to resonate with educators, parents, and students who feel the system is failing to meet the needs of learners. His work serves as a powerful call for reform and a reminder of the importance of rethinking our approach to education.

Conclusion

John Taylor Gatto's "Against School" isn't just a critique; it's a challenge. It compels us to question the assumptions underlying our current education system and to consider alternative approaches that prioritize individual growth, critical thinking, and genuine learning. His arguments, while provocative, force us to confront uncomfortable truths about the nature of education and its impact on society. By engaging with his work, we can begin a crucial conversation about how to create a truly empowering and liberating educational experience for all.

FAQs

1. What is John Taylor Gatto's main criticism of schools? Gatto's primary criticism centers around the "hidden curriculum" of schools – the unspoken values and goals that prioritize conformity, obedience, and compliance over critical thinking and individual expression.
2. Does Gatto advocate for abolishing all schools? No, Gatto doesn't advocate for the complete abolition of schools. He advocates for radical reform, suggesting alternative models like homeschooling, unschooling, and mentorship-based learning that prioritize self-directed learning and individual needs.
3. What are some of the alternatives to traditional schooling that Gatto proposes? Gatto suggests homeschooling, unschooling, apprenticeships, and mentorship-based learning as alternatives that emphasize self-directed learning, individual needs, and practical skills.
4. How is Gatto's work relevant today? Gatto's critique remains highly relevant as concerns about standardized testing, the pressure for conformity, and the suppression of creativity continue to plague modern education systems.

5. Where can I find more information about John Taylor Gatto's work? You can find his books, articles, and essays online through various sources, including his website (if still active) and reputable online bookstores. Searching for "John Taylor Gatto Against School" will yield numerous results.

against school john taylor gatto: Dumbing Us Down John Taylor Gatto, 2002-02-01 With over 70,000 copies of the first edition in print, this radical treatise on public education has been a New Society Publishers' bestseller for 10 years! Thirty years in New York City's public schools led John Gatto to the sad conclusion that compulsory schooling does little but teach young people to follow orders like cogs in an industrial machine. This second edition describes the wide-spread impact of the book and Gatto's guerrilla teaching. John Gatto has been a teacher for 30 years and is a recipient of the New York State Teacher of the Year award. His other titles include *A Different Kind of Teacher* (Berkeley Hills Books, 2001) and *The Underground History of American Education* (Oxford Village Press, 2000).

against school john taylor gatto: Weapons of Mass Instruction John Taylor Gatto, 2010-04-01 The transformation of schooling from a twelve-year jail sentence to freedom to learn. John Taylor Gatto's *Weapons of Mass Instruction*, now available in paperback, focuses on mechanisms of traditional education which cripple imagination, discourage critical thinking, and create a false view of learning as a byproduct of rote-memorization drills. Gatto's earlier book, *Dumbing Us Down*, introduced the now-famous expression of the title into the common vernacular. *Weapons of Mass Instruction* adds another chilling metaphor to the brief against conventional schooling. Gatto demonstrates that the harm school inflicts is rational and deliberate. The real function of pedagogy, he argues, is to render the common population manageable. To that end, young people must be conditioned to rely upon experts, to remain divided from natural alliances and to accept disconnections from their own lived experiences. They must at all costs be discouraged from developing self-reliance and independence. Escaping this trap requires a strategy Gatto calls open source learning which imposes no artificial divisions between learning and life. Through this alternative approach our children can avoid being indoctrinated-only then can they achieve self-knowledge, good judgment, and courage.

against school john taylor gatto: Why Schools Don't Educate John Taylor Gatto, 2001

against school john taylor gatto: The Exhausted School John Taylor Gatto, 2002 These 13 essays illustrate how education reform actually works. Written by award-winning teachers and their students, these essays present successful teaching methods.

against school john taylor gatto: Principles of Secondary Education Alexander James INGLIS, 1922

against school john taylor gatto: The Underground History of American Education, 2003

against school john taylor gatto: A Different Kind of Teacher John Taylor Gatto, 2002 For more than a decade, former New York City and State Teacher of the Year John Taylor Gatto has been among the most insightful and outspoken critics of American schooling, and an influential visionary of the future of education. Through hundreds of public talks, articles, interviews, and classroom projects, Gatto has shown decisively where our failing schools have gone wrong and what can be done to fix them. In *A Different Kind of Teacher*, the bestselling author of *Dumbing Us Down* has collected his most important writings of the past ten years -- reports, meditations, action plans, and jeremiads -- that will change forever the reader's understanding of how our system of education really operates, and how it can be rescued. Book jacket.

against school john taylor gatto: Passion-Driven Education Connor Boyack, 2016-08-16 Do you need parenting advice on how to inspire your child to love learning? Whether you homeschool or send your kids to public or private school, this is essential reading for your situation. Why? Because schooling has become a disaster. Your child's interests and uniqueness are disregarded, and structured curriculum and standards like Common Core place them on a conveyor belt that treats all

children the same. This system crushes a child's curiosity. Your child deserves better! There is a better way: one that ensures your child sees learning as a joy and provides you, the parent, with a much less stressful way to educate and empower your son or daughter. In this book, Connor Boyack shares the exciting philosophy and empowering day-to-day steps involved in passion-driven education. A child's curiosity and natural desire to learn are like a tiny flame, easily extinguished unless it's protected and given fuel. This book will help you as a parent both protect that flame of curiosity and supply it with the fuel necessary to make it burn bright throughout your child's life. Let's ignite our children's natural love of learning!

Five Things Discussed in the Book

What's the problem with schools? Whether public, private, or home, schooling is structured in a way that has significant negative outcomes for children academically, psychologically, and emotionally. To understand the solutions, you first need to review these problems.

What's your goal? Too many parents simply send their children to school out of ritual and expectation, without thinking about the end result. Caring parents must ponder the outcomes of education and what they want their children to become. Once goals are established, we can make a plan.

I need solutions! It's easy to point out problems with schooling. It's more important that we review serious and attainable solutions that can help you educate your child and preserve (or restore) their natural love of learning.

What are the alternatives? If schools are inherently problematic and crush a child's curiosity, what can be done? We'll review several differing approaches to education that incorporate some of the solutions listed earlier.

Passion-driven education

The best way to educate a child is to speak to them in a language they already understand, using their personal interests as a hook to make other subjects interesting and relevant. We'll review some examples and then give you an action plan.

against school john taylor gatto: *The Awakened Eye*, 1979

against school john taylor gatto: **12 Rules for Life** Jordan B. Peterson, 2018-01-23 #1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER #1 INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER What does everyone in the modern world need to know? Renowned psychologist Jordan B. Peterson's answer to this most difficult of questions uniquely combines the hard-won truths of ancient tradition with the stunning revelations of cutting-edge scientific research. Humorous, surprising and informative, Dr. Peterson tells us why skateboarding boys and girls must be left alone, what terrible fate awaits those who criticize too easily, and why you should always pet a cat when you meet one on the street. What does the nervous system of the lowly lobster have to tell us about standing up straight (with our shoulders back) and about success in life? Why did ancient Egyptians worship the capacity to pay careful attention as the highest of gods? What dreadful paths do people tread when they become resentful, arrogant and vengeful? Dr. Peterson journeys broadly, discussing discipline, freedom, adventure and responsibility, distilling the world's wisdom into 12 practical and profound rules for life. *12 Rules for Life* shatters the modern commonplaces of science, faith and human nature, while transforming and ennobling the mind and spirit of its readers.

against school john taylor gatto: **The Child The Parent And The State** James Bryant Conant, 2022-10-26 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

against school john taylor gatto: *Creating a Class* Mitchell L Stevens, 2009-06-30 In real life, Stevens is a professor at Stanford University. But for a year and a half, he worked in the admissions office of a bucolic New England college known for its high academic standards, beautiful campus, and social conscience. Ambitious high schoolers and savvy guidance counselors know that admission here is highly competitive. But creating classes, Stevens finds, is a lot more complicated than most people imagine.

against school john taylor gatto: Pinocchio, the Tale of a Puppet Carlo Collodi, 2011-02

Pinocchio, The Tale of a Puppet follows the adventures of a talking wooden puppet whose nose grew longer whenever he told a lie and who wanted more than anything else to become a real boy. As carpenter Master Antonio begins to carve a block of pinewood into a leg for his table the log shouts out, Don't strike me too hard! Frightened by the talking log, Master Cherry does not know what to do until his neighbor Geppetto drops by looking for a piece of wood to build a marionette. Antonio gives the block to Geppetto. And thus begins the life of Pinocchio, the puppet that turns into a boy. Pinocchio, The Tale of a Puppet is a novel for children by Carlo Collodi is about the mischievous adventures of Pinocchio, an animated marionette, and his poor father and woodcarver Geppetto. It is considered a classic of children's literature and has spawned many derivative works of art. But this is not the story we've seen in film but the original version full of harrowing adventures faced by Pinnocchio. It includes 40 illustrations.

against school john taylor gatto: Understanding Waldorf Education Jack Petrash, 2010-03

Written by a teacher with more than 25 years of experience, this book offers a jargon-free view of Waldorf education and its philosophy of the importance of a three-dimensional education. Through learning experiences that involve all of the senses, children use a variety of intelligences to develop thought, feeling, and intentional, purposeful activity. Whether you're Waldorf parent or teacher, or you just want to learn more about these innovative educational concepts, this book contains important ideas on learning that you can apply today.

against school john taylor gatto: School Is Hell Matt Groening, 2004 Having given readers the last word (and laugh) on work and love, Matt Groening turns to that most hellish subject of all: childhood. Black-and-white cartoons throughout.

against school john taylor gatto: Instead of Education John Holt, John Caldwell Holt, 2004

Holt's most direct and radical challenge to the educational status quo and a clarion call to parents to save their children from schools of all kinds.

against school john taylor gatto: Homeschooling: a Hope for America Carl Watner,

2017-11-15 HOMESCHOOLING A HOPE FOR AMERICA is a collection of articles taken from The Voluntarist, a newsletter with a libertarian outlook which has been published since 1982. The anthology has been assembled by Carl Watner (from many of his past articles, as well as those of others), and contains an original Foreword by John Taylor Gatto. This anthology argues against government education in a unique way. One who advocates voluntarism opposes government schools, not because he opposes schooling but, because he opposes coercion, which is to be found in government taxation, compulsory attendance laws, and in the monopolization of public services. Most of us would agree that there should not be any state religion; that religion should not be supported by taxation; and that people should not be compelled to attend religious services. Why shouldn't the principles of voluntarism in religion apply to education? All government depends on the cooperation and/or tacit consent of the majority of its citizens. When the state could no longer use government churches to legitimize its rule of the divine right of kings, some other institution had to be found that would induce consent among the masses. Government schools became the chosen instrument to produce good citizens for the state. Indoctrinate the young: then they will support the state for the rest of their lives. America is at a cross roads of cultural and economic disintegration, yet voluntarists believe that there is hope. It is to be found in home schooling. Rather than cursing the darkness, parents can light one small candle of wisdom and learning and pass it along to the next generation. Ages of experience testify that the only way society can be improved is by the individualist method; ... that is, the method of each one doing his best to improve one. This is the quiet or patient way of changing society because it concentrates upon bettering the character of men and women as individuals. As the individual units change, the improvement in society will take care of itself. In other words, if one takes care of the means, the end will take care of itself.

against school john taylor gatto: Amish Enterprise Donald B. Kraybill, Steven M. Nolt,

2004-04-19 Amish culture has been rooted in the soil since its beginnings in 1693. But what happens when members of America's oldest Amish community enter non-farm work in one generation? How

will hundreds of cottage industries and micro-enterprises reshape the heart of Amish life? Will traditional eighth grade education still prove adequate? What about gender roles, child-rearing practices, leisure activities, and growing ties with outsiders? *Amish Enterprise* was the first book to discuss these dramatic changes that are transforming Amish communities across North America. Based on interviews with more than 150 Amish entrepreneurs, the authors trace the rise and impact of businesses in Lancaster's Amish settlement in recent decades. In this new edition, the authors update demographic and technological changes, and also describe Amish enterprises outside of Pennsylvania in a new chapter.

against school john taylor gatto: The Underground History of American Education, Volume I John Taylor Gatto, 2017-05-22 The World's Most Courageous Teacher reveals the inner circle secrets of the American school system. The legendary schoolteacher, John Taylor Gatto, invested over 10 years of dedicated research to uncover some of the most alarming ideas and writings by the creators and advocates of mandatory attendance schooling, which show where the system came from and why it was created. He combined these facts with his personal experience as a teacher for 30 years in New York public schools, where he won many awards, including being named State Teacher of the Year twice, and has authored an all-time classic. This book was originally published in 2001, and has been printed a number of times. However, this updated version includes new essays from the author, as well as contributions from Dr. Ron Paul, David Ruenzel, and Richard Grove. This is the first of a 3 book volume which will help the reader gain a solid understanding about the American school organization and many of the hidden, yet powerful parts. In this first of set, Mr. Gatto's humble yet bold personality, mixed with humor and class, makes it an enjoyable read, despite the importance and implications of the subject. Mr. Gatto says, It's time to take our schools back. If they mean to have a war, let it begin now.

against school john taylor gatto: Being a Teacher , 2015

against school john taylor gatto: The Teenage Liberation Handbook Grace Llewellyn, 1998 An estimated 700,000 American children are now taught at home. This book tells teens how to take control of their lives and get a real life. Young people can reclaim their natural ability to teach themselves and design a personalized education program. Grace Llewellyn explains the entire process, from making the decision to quit school, to discovering the learning opportunities available.

against school john taylor gatto: Idiot Nation Michael Moore, 2005 Every book tells a story . . . And the 70 titles in the Pocket Penguins series are emblematic of the renowned breadth and quality that formed part of the original Penguin vision in 1935 and that continue to define our publishing today. Together, they tell one version of the unique story of Penguin Books. Multi-million selling author; award-winning filmmaker, performer, activist and scourge of political hypocrites everywhere, Michael Moore is nothing less than a global phenomenon. *Stupid White Men* - the book they tried to ban in the US - was published by Penguin in the UK in 2002 and has since sold well over 1.5 million copies. These hilarious and scorching extracts show exactly why Moore is the man that everyone has an opinion on.

against school john taylor gatto: Beyond Discipline Alfie Kohn, 2006 In this 10th anniversary edition of an ASCD best seller, author Alfie Kohn reflects on his innovative ideas about replacing traditional discipline programs, in which things are done to students to control how they act, with a collaborative approach, in which we work with students to create caring communities. Features a new afterword by the author.

against school john taylor gatto: The True and Only Heaven: Progress and Its Critics Christopher Lasch, 1991-09-17 A major and challenging work. . . . Provocative, and certain to be controversial. . . . Will add important new dimension to the continuing debate on the decline of liberalism. —William Julius Wilson, *New York Times Book Review* Can we continue to believe in progress? In this sobering analysis of the Western human condition, Christopher Lasch seeks the answer in a history of the struggle between two ideas: one is the idea of progress - an idea driven by the conviction that human desire is insatiable and requires ever larger production forces. Opposing this materialist view is the idea that condemns a boundless appetite for more and better goods and

distrusts improvements that only feed desire. Tracing the opposition to the idea of progress from Rousseau through Montesquieu to Carlyle, Max Weber and G.D.H. Cole, Lasch finds much that is desirable in a turn toward moral conservatism, toward a lower-middle-class culture that features egalitarianism, workmanship and loyalty, and recognizes the danger of resentment of the material goods of others.

against school john taylor gatto: Real Education Charles Murray, 2009-08-25 The most talked-about education book this semester. —New York Times From the author of *Coming Apart*, and based on a series of controversial Wall Street Journal op-eds, this landmark manifesto gives voice to what everyone knows about talent, ability, and intelligence but no one wants to admit. With four truths as his framework, Charles Murray, the bestselling coauthor of *The Bell Curve*, sweeps away the hypocrisy, wishful thinking, and upside-down priorities that grip America's educational establishment. •Ability varies. Children differ in their ability to learn, but America's educational system does its best to ignore this. •Half of the children are below average. Many children cannot learn more than rudimentary reading and math. Yet decades of policies have required schools to divert resources to unattainable goals. •Too many people are going to college. Only a fraction of students struggling to get a degree can profit from education at the college level. •America's future depends on how we educate the academically gifted. It is time to start thinking about the kind of education needed by the young people who will run the country.

against school john taylor gatto: *Beginnings of Learning* Jiddu Krishnamurti, 2003 Krishnamurti believed that "education is the heart of the matter." His longstanding concern with the nature and problems of education led him to found schools in India, England, and America, and his conversations with students, teachers, and parents form the major part of *Beginnings of Learning*. These lively, often intimate exchanges turn on practical, everyday matters as well as wider philosophical issues, as Krishnamurti encourages his audience to appreciate that the beginning of wisdom is self-knowledge. Jiddu Krishnamurti was born in southern India in 1895 and died in 1986. The essence of his teachings is that societal change and world peace can only occur through a complete change of individual consciousness.

against school john taylor gatto: Unschooling Kerry McDonald, Peter Gray, 2019-05-07 Education has become synonymous with schooling, but it doesn't have to be. As schooling becomes increasingly standardized and test driven, occupying more of childhood than ever before, parents and educators are questioning the role of schooling in society. Many are now exploring and creating alternatives. In a compelling narrative that introduces historical and contemporary research on self-directed education, *Unschooling* also spotlights how a diverse group of individuals and organizations are evolving an old schooling model of education. These innovators challenge the myth that children need to be taught in order to learn. They are parents who saw firsthand how schooling can dull children's natural curiosity and exuberance and others who decided early on to enable their children to learn without school. Educators who left public school classrooms discuss launching self-directed learning centers to allow young people's innate learning instincts to flourish, and entrepreneurs explore their disillusionment with the teach-and-test approach of traditional schooling.

against school john taylor gatto: Teach Your Own John Holt, 1981-07 Examines the advantages and disadvantages of home education, offering advice on legal strategy, dealing with school authorities, home learning, and returning to school at a later time

against school john taylor gatto: How Children Learn John Holt, 2009-04-20 From the preface by Deborah Meier: We have a long way to go to make John Holt's dream available to all children. But his books make it possible and easier for many of us to join him in the journey. In this enduring classic, rich with deep, original insight into the nature of early learning, John Holt was the first to make clear that, for small children, learning is as natural as breathing. In his delightful book he observes how children actually learn to talk, to read, to count, and to reason, and how, as adults, we can best encourage these natural abilities in our children.

against school john taylor gatto: Back to the Rough Ground Joseph Dunne, 1997-09-01

Back to the Rough Ground is a philosophical investigation of practical knowledge, with major import for professional practice and the ethical life in modern society. Its purpose is to clarify the kind of knowledge that informs good practice in a range of disciplines such as education, psychotherapy, medicine, management, and law. Through reflection on key modern thinkers who have revived cardinal insights of Aristotle, and a sustained engagement with the Philosopher himself, it presents a radical challenge to the scientistic assumptions that have dominated how these professional domains have been conceived, practiced, and institutionalized.

against school john taylor gatto: Against Schooling Stanley Aronowitz, 2008 Stanley Aronowitz passionately raises an alarm about the current state of education in the US.

against school john taylor gatto: The Collapse of Globalism Revised Edition John Ralston Saul, 2009-09-22 In 1999, John Ralston Saul began predicting that globalism would collapse. In 2005, he laid out this scenario in *The Collapse of Globalism: and the Reinvention of the World Now* he has enlarged the book, showing how today's crisis came about and suggesting what to do next. In this new edition, Saul describes the current financial crisis as a mere boil to be lanced. The far more serious problem is that the West—driven by most of its economists, managers, consultants, and columnists—remains stuck on outdated ideas of growth, wealth creation, and trade expansion. They are still trying to limit the debate to a narrow choice between protectionism and free trade and are concentrated on old-fashioned stimulation. Public policy has been dominated by the people who created this crisis. Saul envisions a new sort of wealth creation and growth, and in place of reaction, advocates new forms of action.

against school john taylor gatto: *What Does It Mean to Be Well Educated?* Alfie Kohn, 2004-05-15 Few writers ask us to question our fundamental assumptions about education as provocatively as Alfie Kohn. Time magazine has called him 'perhaps the country's most outspoken critic of education's fixation on grades [and] test scores.' And the Washington Post says he is 'the most energetic and charismatic figure standing in the way of a major federal effort to make standardized curriculums and tests a fact of life in every U.S. school.' In this new collection of essays, Kohn takes on some of the most important and controversial topics in education of the last few years. His central focus is on the real goals of education—a topic, he argues, that we systematically ignore while lavishing attention on misguided models of learning and counterproductive techniques of motivation. The shift to talking about goals yields radical conclusions and wonderfully pungent essays that only Alfie Kohn could have written. From the title essay's challenge to conventional, conservative definitions of a good education to essays on standards and testing and grades that tally the severe educational costs of overemphasizing a narrow conception of achievement, Kohn boldly builds on his earlier work and writes for a wide audience. Kohn's new book will be greeted with enthusiasm by his many readers and by any teacher or parent looking for a refreshing perspective on today's debates about schools.

against school john taylor gatto: Gwynne's Grammar N.M. Gwynne, 2014-09-02 Anxious about apostrophes? In a pickle over your pronouns and prepositions? Fear not—Mr. Gwynne is here with his wonderfully concise and highly enjoyable book of grammar. Within these pages, adults and children alike will find all they need to rediscover this lost science and sharpen up their skills. Mr. Gwynne believes that happiness depends at least partly on good grammar—and Mr. Gwynne is never wrong.

against school john taylor gatto: The Adventures of Snider John Taylor Gatto, 2016-12-10 A children's epic rhyme about a sophisticated and cultured spider named Snider, who dreams of becoming a CIA spy and his subsequent adventures working for the CIA.

against school john taylor gatto: Learning All The Time John Holt, 1990-01-22 The essence of John Holt's insight into learning and small children is captured in *Learning All The Time*. This delightful book by the influential author of *How Children Fail* and *How Children Learn* shows how children learn to read, write, and count in their everyday life at home and how adults can respect and encourage this wonderful process. For human beings, he reminds us, learning is as natural as breathing. John Holt's wit, his gentle wisdom, and his infectious love of little children bring joy to

parent and teacher alike.

against school john taylor gatto: Growing Without Schooling Patrick Farenga, John Holt, Carlo Ricci, 2016-06-14 After years of working to change schools from within-testifying before Congress and addressing audiences around the world about how to make schools better places for children-John Holt founded Growing Without Schooling magazine in 1977 to support self-directed education and learning outside of school. Each issue is a lively exchange among readers and Holt, packed with useful advice, resource recommendations, and all sorts of legal, pedagogical, and parenting ideas from people who pioneered what we now call homeschooling. John Holt (1983-1985) is the author of *How Children Learn* and *How Children Fail*, which together have sold over a million and a half copies, and eight other books about children and learning. His work has been translated into more than 40 languages. Once a leading figure in school reform, John Holt became increasingly interested in how children learn outside of school. The magazine he founded, Growing Without Schooling (GWS), reflects his philosophy, which he called unschooling. GWS was published from 1977 to 2001 and is the first magazine devoted to homeschooling and self-directed education.

against school john taylor gatto: Everywhere All the Time Matt Hern, 2008 Teaching children to think creatively and critically has never been on the educational agenda and society suffers for it in many ways. The solution is not simply in throwing money at schools, in perpetual reorganisation of the British education system. Hern and his many contributors propose a much more radical approach. A fine collection of essays, both current and historical, examining the social effects and historical substance of education in society.

against school john taylor gatto: Summerhill School Alexander Sutherland Neill, 1993-01-01 A guide to experimental education, originally published in 1960 and expanded for the 1990s, features a discussion of how American education lags behind the rest of the world and what people can do to change that.

against school john taylor gatto: Better Late Than Early Raymond S. Moore, Dorothy N. Moore, 1975

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