

against schools john taylor gatto

against schools john taylor gatto is a provocative essay and philosophy that challenges conventional ideas about the American education system. In this comprehensive article, we delve into the core arguments presented by John Taylor Gatto, an acclaimed educator and author, who became widely known for criticizing traditional schooling. We explore his experiences in the classroom, the historical context of public education, and the implications of his work for students, parents, and society. By examining his main critiques, alternative educational approaches, and the impact of his theories, readers will gain a thorough understanding of why Gatto stood against schools as they are commonly structured. Whether you are a parent, educator, or curious learner, this article provides valuable insights into the ongoing debate about education reform and the legacy of John Taylor Gatto's ideas.

- John Taylor Gatto: Background and Influence
- Key Arguments Against Schools by John Taylor Gatto
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John Taylor Gatto: Background and Influence

John Taylor Gatto was an American school teacher and author who became famous for his outspoken criticism of the public school system. With over three decades of teaching experience in New York City schools, Gatto was awarded the New York State Teacher of the Year before resigning to share his views about education. His essay, "Against Schools," published in Harper's Magazine, and subsequent books, such as "Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling," deeply influenced educators, parents, and policymakers. Gatto's work is recognized for its incisive critique of schooling, its impact on child development, and its call for educational reform.

Gatto's Teaching Experience

Gatto's direct experience in urban classrooms gave him a unique perspective. Observing student behavior,

academic achievement, and institutional policies, he identified systemic problems that he believed undermined genuine learning. His observations led him to question the very foundation of compulsory schooling and its effects on creativity, independence, and motivation.

Recognition and Controversy

Gatto's accolades as a teacher gave credibility to his criticism, while also sparking debate. His ideas were considered radical by many in the educational establishment, but they resonated with those seeking alternatives to traditional schooling. The controversy surrounding his work helped to amplify his message and encourage deeper examination of education practices.

Key Arguments Against Schools by John Taylor Gatto

John Taylor Gatto's central thesis, as outlined in "Against Schools," is that compulsory public education stifles intellectual growth, creativity, and individuality. He asserts that the school system is designed to produce compliant workers rather than critical thinkers, and that its structure is inherently detrimental to real learning.

Critique of Standardization

Gatto argues that the emphasis on standardized testing, rigid curriculums, and uniformity suppresses curiosity and personal growth. He believes that education should be personalized and adaptive, allowing students to explore their interests and develop unique talents, rather than conforming to one-size-fits-all standards.

Loss of Autonomy and Motivation

According to Gatto, compulsory schooling erodes natural motivation by taking away autonomy. Children become dependent on external approval and lose the ability to direct their own learning. Gatto suggests that this dependency continues into adulthood, affecting personal and professional lives.

The Hidden Curriculum

- Obedience to Authority
- Conformity to Social Norms

- Limited Scope of Knowledge
- Suppression of Creativity
- Fragmentation of Learning

Gatto describes a "hidden curriculum" in schools that teaches students to obey, conform, and accept superficial knowledge. He claims that this undermines the development of independent thought and genuine mastery.

Historical Critique of Public Education

Gatto's critique is rooted in the historical development of the American public school system. He traces the origins of compulsory schooling to industrial and political interests, rather than educational necessity. By examining the intentions behind public education, Gatto reveals how schools were designed to shape social behavior and workforce readiness.

Origins of Compulsory Schooling

The rise of mass education in the 19th century coincided with the need for disciplined factory workers and obedient citizens. Gatto argues that the system borrowed from Prussian models of education, which prioritized social order over intellectual growth. This historical context, he claims, explains why schools focus more on routine and compliance than on learning.

Education as Social Engineering

Public schooling was often used as a tool for social engineering, aiming to assimilate immigrants, standardize values, and create predictable behavior. Gatto suggests that this approach limits diversity of thought and suppresses cultural and individual differences.

The Effects of Compulsory Schooling

Gatto emphasizes that the effects of compulsory schooling reach far beyond academics, impacting personal development, family relationships, and society at large. He argues that mandatory attendance and rigid schedules interfere with natural learning processes and the formation of meaningful connections.

Impact on Child Development

Children in traditional schools, according to Gatto, experience reduced curiosity and initiative. The school environment often discourages exploration and risk-taking, while promoting passive learning. This can result in lower self-esteem and diminished problem-solving abilities.

Family and Community Disconnection

Gatto claims that compulsory schooling weakens family bonds and community involvement by isolating children from adults and real-world experiences. He advocates for education that integrates families and local communities, fostering support networks and practical skills.

Long-Term Societal Effects

1. Decreased Civic Engagement
2. Overreliance on Credentials
3. Loss of Entrepreneurial Spirit
4. Increased Conformity
5. Reduced Critical Thinking

Gatto links the structure of schooling to broader societal trends, including decreasing civic participation, growing dependence on formal credentials, and a decline in innovation. He suggests that these are unintended consequences of the schooling system's focus on compliance over creativity.

Alternative Educational Models

In response to the shortcomings of traditional schools, Gatto advocated for alternative educational models that prioritize autonomy, mastery, and real-world engagement. He encouraged parents and educators to explore options outside the mainstream system, including homeschooling, unschooling, and experiential learning.

Homeschooling and Unschooling

Gatto viewed homeschooling and unschooling as viable alternatives for families seeking personalized education. These approaches empower learners to pursue their interests, develop self-discipline, and engage in meaningful activities. Homeschooling allows for flexible schedules, while unschooling removes formal curricula entirely.

Mentorship and Apprenticeship

Mentorship and apprenticeship models, according to Gatto, reconnect young people with adults and real-world challenges. These methods promote learning through hands-on experience, fostering skills and relationships that traditional classrooms often overlook.

Community-Based Learning

- Local projects and service learning
- Partnerships with businesses and organizations
- Peer-to-peer education
- Extracurricular enrichment

Gatto believed that education is most effective when rooted in community. He advocated for programs that connect students to local projects, businesses, and peer groups, expanding their horizons and building practical competence.

Impact and Legacy of Gatto's Philosophy

John Taylor Gatto's "Against Schools" essay and broader philosophy sparked a movement for educational reform and alternative learning. His critiques continue to influence debates about standardized testing, curriculum design, and parental choice. While some educators support his ideas, others argue for reform within the existing system.

Influence on Education Reform

Gatto's work inspired educators to challenge conventional practices and seek innovative solutions. His emphasis on autonomy, critical thinking, and real-world learning helped shape homeschooling movements

and experimental schools across the country.

Ongoing Debate and Criticism

Gatto's arguments remain relevant as the education system faces new challenges, such as digital learning and equity issues. Critics argue that his solutions may not be suitable for all families, and that schools play an important role in providing structure, safety, and resources. Nonetheless, his legacy endures in ongoing efforts to rethink schooling and promote learner-centered approaches.

Seminal Works and Enduring Impact

- "Against Schools" essay
- "Dumbing Us Down" book
- "Weapons of Mass Instruction" book
- Keynote speeches and interviews
- Influence on homeschooling and unschooling movements

Gatto's writings continue to be studied and discussed by educators, parents, and reformers. His call to question the purpose and structure of schools remains a cornerstone of alternative education philosophy.

Trending and Relevant Questions and Answers about against schools john taylor gatto

Q: What is the main argument of John Taylor Gatto's "Against Schools"?

A: The main argument is that compulsory public education suppresses creativity, autonomy, and intellectual growth, producing compliance rather than genuine learning.

Q: How did John Taylor Gatto's teaching experience influence his views?

A: Gatto's experiences in New York City classrooms exposed him to systemic issues like standardization, loss of motivation, and the hidden curriculum, leading him to critique the structure and purpose of

traditional schooling.

Q: What is the “hidden curriculum” described by Gatto?

A: The hidden curriculum refers to the implicit lessons taught in schools, such as obedience, conformity, and superficial knowledge, which Gatto believes undermine independent thinking.

Q: Why does Gatto criticize standardized testing?

A: He argues that standardized testing enforces uniformity, narrows the curriculum, and discourages creativity and personalized learning.

Q: What alternatives to traditional schooling does Gatto support?

A: Gatto advocates for homeschooling, unschooling, mentorship, apprenticeship, and community-based learning as more effective ways to foster autonomy and real-world skills.

Q: How has John Taylor Gatto’s work impacted education reform?

A: His critiques have influenced homeschooling movements, alternative education models, and ongoing debates about testing, curriculum, and parental choice.

Q: What are some long-term effects of compulsory schooling according to Gatto?

A: Gatto claims compulsory schooling leads to decreased civic engagement, loss of entrepreneurial spirit, increased conformity, and reduced critical thinking.

Q: What historical context does Gatto provide for the development of public schools?

A: He traces their origins to industrial and political interests focused on social order and workforce preparation, rather than individual intellectual growth.

Q: Are Gatto’s alternative educational models suitable for everyone?

A: Critics argue that while alternative models have benefits, they may not be feasible for all families due to resources, structure, or community support needs.

Q: What is Gatto's legacy in the field of education?

A: John Taylor Gatto's legacy is his enduring influence on educational reform, the homeschooling movement, and the call to reevaluate the purpose and methods of schooling.

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

Introduction:

John Taylor Gatto, a New York City teacher who won three Teacher of the Year awards before resigning in protest, delivered a scathing critique of the modern schooling system. His controversial stance, encapsulated in his writings and speeches, argues that schools, far from being engines of progress, are instruments of social control, hindering individual growth and creativity. This article delves into Gatto's central arguments, examining his criticisms and considering their implications for education today. We'll explore his key points, analyze their strengths and weaknesses, and offer a nuanced perspective on this provocative and enduring debate.

Gatto's Core Arguments: Why He Was "Against Schools"

Gatto's primary argument centers on the inherent flaws within the structure and philosophy of compulsory schooling. He didn't advocate for abolishing education altogether; rather, he passionately argued against the system of schooling as we know it. He believed it systematically stifles individuality, creativity, and critical thinking.

1. The Industrial Model of Education:

Gatto likened the modern school system to an industrial factory, designed for mass production and conformity rather than individual learning. The standardized curriculum, rigid schedules, and emphasis on rote learning, he argued, are remnants of an era designed to create compliant factory workers, not engaged and independent thinkers. This rigid structure, he claimed, leaves little room for personalized education tailored to individual strengths and interests.

2. The Suppression of Individuality:

A crucial aspect of Gatto's critique is the suppression of individuality. The rigid structure and standardized assessments, he maintained, force students into a mold, discouraging independent thought and creativity. The focus on grades and external validation, he argued, replaces intrinsic motivation with external pressure, stifling the natural curiosity that drives genuine learning.

3. Hidden Curriculum of Social Control:

Gatto believed schools subtly, and sometimes overtly, instill obedience and conformity. He saw the bell schedule, the ranking system, and the emphasis on following rules as mechanisms for social control, preparing students for a life of unquestioning obedience rather than critical engagement with the world. This "hidden curriculum," he argued, is far more impactful than the officially stated learning objectives.

4. The Illusion of Knowledge:

Gatto criticized the focus on standardized testing and memorization as a shallow approach to learning. He believed true education should foster critical thinking, problem-solving, and a deep understanding of concepts, not just the ability to regurgitate facts for a test. He argued that the system often prioritized superficial knowledge over genuine understanding and application.

5. The Deskilling of Children:

Gatto posited that the modern school system actively deskills children. By taking control of their time, limiting their autonomy, and focusing on passive learning, schools prevent children from developing essential life skills like self-reliance, problem-solving, and resourcefulness.

Criticisms of Gatto's Arguments:

While Gatto's critiques are powerful and thought-provoking, they are not without their weaknesses. Some critics argue his vision of alternative education lacks practical implementation strategies. Others point out that he oversimplifies the complexities of the education system, failing to acknowledge the positive aspects of standardized testing (like accountability) or the efforts of many educators to personalize learning within existing structures. The lack of concrete solutions beyond his critique is a frequent point of contention.

The Enduring Relevance of Gatto's Work:

Despite the criticisms, Gatto's work remains remarkably relevant. His concerns about the industrial model of education, the suppression of individuality, and the hidden curriculum of social control continue to resonate with educators, parents, and students who question the effectiveness and fairness of the current system. His writings serve as a powerful call for educational reform, prompting us to rethink the purpose and methods of schooling.

Conclusion:

John Taylor Gatto's "against schools" stance isn't a blanket rejection of education but a passionate plea for a fundamental shift in its approach. His criticisms, while sometimes controversial, force us to confront uncomfortable truths about the modern schooling system. Whether you agree with all his arguments or not, his work serves as a vital contribution to the ongoing dialogue about how we can create a more effective, engaging, and genuinely liberating educational experience for all.

FAQs:

1. Did Gatto advocate for completely abolishing schools? No, Gatto argued against the system of compulsory schooling as it currently exists, not against education itself. He envisioned alternative learning environments that fostered individual growth and genuine learning.
2. What alternatives to traditional schooling did Gatto suggest? Gatto didn't offer a specific blueprint, but he championed self-directed learning, mentorship, apprenticeships, and community-based learning experiences as potential alternatives.
3. How has Gatto's work influenced educational reform? Gatto's work has fueled the unschooling

movement and inspired discussions around personalized learning, alternative education models, and the importance of critical thinking.

4. Are there any downsides to Gatto's proposed alternative education models? The lack of standardized assessment and potential for inequities in access to resources are common criticisms of alternative education models.

5. What is the most important takeaway from Gatto's work? The most crucial takeaway is the urgent need to critically examine the purpose and methods of schooling and to prioritize individual growth, creativity, and genuine learning over standardized conformity and social control.

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

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

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

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

against schools john taylor gatto: *Unschooling To University* Judy L. Arnall, 2018-09-21 School is one option for education; homeschooling is the second, and unschooling is the third. Many parents are frustrated by the school system, perhaps because of bullying, crowded classrooms, and outdated, dull, online courses. Disengaged learners that have no say in their coerced curriculum tend to act out, tune out, or drop out. Education must change and unschooling is the fastest-growing alternative method of learning. Two decades ago, students registered with their local school based on their house address. Now, with the internet, students are borderless. Learning can occur anywhere, anytime, anyway and from anyone-including self-taught. Self-directing their education, unschoolers learn through: - Play - Projects - Reading - Volunteering - Video games - Sports - Mentorship - Travel - Life This book explores the path of 30 unschooled children who self-directed all or part of their education and were accepted by universities, colleges, and other postsecondary schools. Most have already graduated. What children need most are close relationships-parents, teachers, siblings, relatives, coaches, and mentors within a wider community, not just within an institutional school. Educational content is everywhere. Caring relationships are not. Families that embrace unschooling, do not have to choose between a quality education and a relaxed, connected family lifestyle. They can have both.

against schools 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 schools 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 schools 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 schools john taylor gatto: Ken Kesey's One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest John Taylor Gatto, 1975

against schools john taylor gatto: Presentation Zen Garr Reynolds, 2009-04-15 FOREWORD BY GUY KAWASAKI Presentation designer and internationally acclaimed communications expert Garr Reynolds, creator of the most popular Web site on presentation design and delivery on the Net — presentationzen.com — shares his experience in a provocative mix of illumination, inspiration, education, and guidance that will change the way you think about making presentations with PowerPoint or Keynote. Presentation Zen challenges the conventional wisdom of making slide presentations in today's world and encourages you to think differently and more creatively about the preparation, design, and delivery of your presentations. Garr shares lessons and perspectives that draw upon practical advice from the fields of communication and business. Combining solid principles of design with the tenets of Zen simplicity, this book will help you along the path to simpler, more effective presentations.

against schools 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 schools john taylor gatto: Unschooled 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, Unschooled 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 schools 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 crossroads 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 schools john taylor gatto: "I Love Learning; I Hate School" Susan D. Blum, 2016-01-13 Frustrated by her students' performance, her relationships with them, and her own daughter's problems in school, Susan D. Blum, a professor of anthropology, set out to understand why her students found their educational experience at a top-tier institution so profoundly difficult and unsatisfying. Through her research and in conversations with her students, she discovered a troubling mismatch between the goals of the university and the needs of students. In *I Love Learning; I Hate School*, Blum tells two intertwined but inseparable stories: the results of her research into how students learn contrasted with the way conventional education works, and the personal narrative of how she herself was transformed by this understanding. Blum concludes that the dominant forms of higher education do not match the myriad forms of learning that help students—people in general—master meaningful and worthwhile skills and knowledge. Students are capable of learning huge amounts, but the ways higher education is structured often leads them to fail to learn. More than that, it leads to ill effects. In this critique of higher education, infused with anthropological insights, Blum explains why so much is going wrong and offers suggestions for how to bring classroom learning more in line with appropriate forms of engagement. She challenges our system of education and argues for a reintegration of learning with life.

against schools john taylor gatto: Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning Douglas Wilson, 2022 Newspapers are filled with stories about poorly educated children, ineffective teachers, and cash-strapped school districts. In this greatly expanded treatment of a topic he first dealt with in *Rediscovering the Lost Tools of Learning*, Douglas Wilson proposes an alternative to government-operated school by advocating a return to classical Christian education with its discipline, hard work, and learning geared to child development stages. As an educator, Wilson is well-equipped to diagnose the cause of America's deteriorating school system and to propose remedies for those committed to their children's best interests in education. He maintains that education is essentially religious because it deals with the basic questions about life that require spiritual answers—reading and writing are simply the tools. Offering a review of classical education and the history of this movement, Wilson also reflects on his own involvement in the process of creating educational institutions that embrace that style of learning. He details elements needed in a useful curriculum, including a list of literary classics. Readers will see that classical education offers the best opportunity for academic achievement, character growth, and spiritual education, and that such quality cannot be duplicated in a religiously-neutral environment--

against schools 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 schools 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 schools 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 schools john taylor gatto: Being a Teacher , 2015

against schools 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 schools john taylor gatto: The Whole Movement of Life Is Learning Jiddu Krishnamurti, 2015-07-30 Our modern society is based on greed, envy and power. When you consider all this as it actually is, this overpowering commercialism indicates degeneration and basic immorality. We are destroying the earth and all the things on it for our gratification. To radically change this pattern of our life, which is the basis of all society, is the educator's responsibility. Written over a period of fifteen years, Krishnamurti's letters to his schools contain the essence of his teachings. Krishnamurti aims at making the reader understand the way he thinks, how all of us are influenced, moulded to conform to a pattern and free him from the limitations of his mind. Education is to unfold the full human potential.

against schools 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 schools 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 schools 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 scientific assumptions that have dominated how these professional domains have been conceived, practiced, and institutionalized.

against schools 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 schools 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 schools john taylor gatto: Dumbing Us Down - 25th Anniversary Edition John Taylor Gatto, 2017-05-19 Throw off the shackles of formal schooling and embark upon a rich journey of self-directed, life-long learning After over 100 years of mandatory schooling in the U.S., literacy rates have dropped, families are fragmented, learning disabilities are skyrocketing, and children and youth are increasingly disaffected. Thirty years of teaching in the public school system led John Taylor Gatto to the sad conclusion that compulsory governmental schooling is to blame, accomplishing little but to teach young people to follow orders like cogs in an industrial machine. He became a fierce advocate of families and young people taking back education and learning, arguing that genius is as common as dirt, but that conventional schooling is driving out the natural curiosity and problem-solving skills we're born with, replacing it with rule-following, fragmented time, and disillusionment. Gatto's radical treatise on public education, a bestseller for 25 years, continues to bang the drum for an unshackling of children and learning from formal schooling. Now, in an ever-more-rapidly changing world with an explosion of alternative routes to learning, it's poised to continue to shake the world of institutional education for many more years. Featuring a new foreword from Zachary Slayback, an Ivy League dropout and cofounder of tech start-up career foundry Praxis, this 25th anniversary edition will inspire new generations of parents and students to take control of learning and kickstart an empowered society of self-directed lifetime-learners.

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

against schools 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 schools 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.

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