



Written by [Selwyn Duke](#) on March 29, 2016

## Stupid in America: Students Are So Bad, Professor Can't Grade Them

What does it say when in two days a teacher exhausts the ink in his red pen? Since a nation cannot be “ignorant and free,” as Thomas Jefferson put it, it perhaps means we face a threat graver than the Red Menace.

Apathetic or even hostile students, dumbed-down tests, often incompetent and ideologically driven teachers, Cracker Jack-box degrees, morally toxic curricula, revisionist history, the new math — education has collapsed in America. And one of the sincere educators, wandering amidst the rubble, recently provided a window into this academic apocalypse.



Eileen F. Toplansky, a social commentator and adjunct English instructor at the college level, laments that a good number of her ex-students were so bad that it's difficult to even grade their work. She [provides many examples](#) of former students definitely not smarter than a fifth grader (the ones on TV, anyway), but opens with this striking unedited submission:

Attached is the actual outline for my ruff raft. Please, account this as credit therefore I'll prove my academic progression as acknowledgment for satisfactory of the course. The presentation shall be captivating with visualization being a current pet owner of a fish too!

Wow, this student is obviously very excited — about what I have no idea.

Professor Toplansky then reports that when “discussing illegal immigration and a concomitant rise in disease, another student writes this indecipherable ‘sentence’”:

The introduction gets a reader's attention by wondering what is the cause of the nice lady starving from times to times and what will the government to about the health benefits services at the end.

Perhaps the cause is that the nice lady received a faux education and had no marketable skills.

Many of Toplansky's students haven't even learned basic grammar, punctuation, or even capitalization rules. As she writes, often “‘White House’ is not capitalized, nor is ‘American,’ ‘Christian,’ or ‘English.’” Of course, this problem is greatly exacerbated when a generation is immersed in social media in which 140-character, Twitter-esque communication is the norm. Yet its root cause is far more troubling.

The professor also complains of “racial animus,” providing an example of prejudice that makes Archie Bunker appear articulate: “I do believe immigrants are what makes this country great is more of a culture thing I find Americans to be boring in most areas immigrants bring a certain color to an all white canvas so to speak,” one student wrote.



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Then there are the excuses for apathy, such as that made by a young man who didn't read newspapers and proudly rationalized that he wouldn't open the *New York Times* because it was owned by "rich people." (There are good reasons to avoid the *Times* — that's not one of them.)

More troubling still were the emotion-driven, nailed-shut minds. Toplansky mentions one girl totally unmoved by Dr. Thomas Sowell's explanation of how the minimum wage hurts the poor and by information indicating that McDonald's