

Zachary, Honorable Mention

The Unconstitutionality of Federal Involvement in Education

The vast majority of people residing in the United States today simply accept the involvement of the federal government in education. This involvement is largely supported, and rarely questioned. Occasionally an objection will be raised when a larger intrusion such as Common Core is implemented, but even then the authority over education that the government claims goes almost completely unquestioned. This essay questions that authority. The purpose of this essay is to make a short, simple, and concise case showing that federal involvement in education is unconstitutional.

The entirety of the argument against federal government involvement in education can be made using the Constitution. Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution lists eighteen specific powers that the states delegated to the federal government¹. None of these powers have anything to do with education. The Tenth Amendment states, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."² Since education is a power that was not even mentioned in the Constitution, and definitely not delegated to the federal government, the control of it is left "to the States respectively, or to the people."³ If the Constitution shows that authority over education belongs to the states and their citizens, then any attempt by the federal government to involve itself in education must be unconstitutional. The Constitution also refers to itself as the "Supreme Law of the Land."⁴ Therefore these encroachments upon liberty by the federal government are not only unconstitutional, but also unlawful, and must be abolished.

¹ U.S. Const. art. I. sec. 8.

² U.S. Const. amend. X.

³ U.S. Const. amend. X.

⁴ U.S. Const. art. VI.