

Study Guide for *The American School: Why Johnny Can't Think*

by Dr. Leonard Peikoff

- Summarize the anti-conceptual approach to education described by Dr. Peikoff.
- What is the difference between interacting with the world on the perceptual versus conceptual level?
- How does the method employed by the schools that Dr. Peikoff describes violate this distinction?
- What principle of teaching and understanding history is missing in the approach detailed by Peikoff? Provide original examples of how this might happen today.
- What is the unique value to the method of phonics in the teaching of reading?
- Why do educators object to teaching grammar?
- In teaching composition, what effect does the modern approach have on the student's method of thinking more broadly?
- Describe the effects of the anti-conceptual approach in the teaching of science.
- Why does Dr. Peikoff recommend the lecture method of instruction?
- What is the most basic cause of today's educational problems identified by Dr. Peikoff?
- What specific step to improve education is proposed?