

**Schools  
in  
Crisis:  
Training for  
Success or Failure?**

**By  
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Schools in Crisis: Training for Success or Failure?

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## Schools in Crisis: Training for Success or Failure?

## **About the Author**

Carl Sommer has unusual qualifications for writing this book on education: He has taught high school students in New York City, counseled students and parents as a high school assistant dean of boys in a school with 3,600 pupils, worked as a foreman of a tool and die shop and managed a manufacturing plant.

Shortly after becoming a high school teacher Sommer discovered something seriously wrong with the education his students received; for ten years he researched the problem. Though he had a college degree, to validate his teacher's license he attended Oswego State University, City College of New York, and New York University. While attending New York University he had the privilege of using Bobst Library, the largest research library in New York City, to help him in his investigation. His managing an entire manufacturing plant, seven years of teaching high school students, extensive researching, counseling students and parents as a dean of boys, and being a father of five children have provided him with much practical experience.

To have more time for research, Sommer sacrificed a year's salary by taking a leave of absence and was thus able to investigate the schools as a substitute teacher from within the system. In each of the five boroughs of New York City he served as an elementary, an intermediate, a junior high, and a high school teacher, teaching all grades from 1 to 12 in 27 different schools. To discover solutions to the problems plaguing American education, he sent a survey to 115 principals, 49 of whom responded. He has personally interviewed parents, students, teachers, assistant principals, and principals. Since the book covers such a multitude of problems and solutions, he has had numerous individuals, both black and white, read portions of the book: parents, lawyers, ministers, teachers, principals, a college professor, and superintendents of schools.

With his parental and managerial background Sommer examines the schools from without the system, and with his counseling and educational background, from within. Though exposing many current weaknesses of today's education, Sommer constantly strives to promote practical solutions for successful schools.

## Schools in Crisis: Training for Success or Failure?

## About the Author Today

It is because of the wonders of the technology of print on demand that allows us to offer *Schools in Crisis: Training for Success or Failure?* This book took me ten years to write. I used a typewriter and scissor and tape to make corrections.

When computers became available, I was quick to embrace this new technology. Today I've written over 100 books. Because of my industrial background, I decided in 1986 to open a company that specializes in electrical discharge machining with my two sons. From the beginning I let my son with an engineering degree manage the business, for my passion was to do something about the crisis in education.

Our machining company grew until today we're the largest company of its kind west of the Mississippi River ([www.reliableedm.com](http://www.reliableedm.com)). The success of this machining company allowed me to fulfill my passion to publish character-building educational materials that teach children and youth how to become successful.

I began to write children's books that taught virtues through interesting stories. Many of these stories were forged on the anvil of experience from my five children, 19 years of teenagers, and numerous grandchildren. I first published six children's books and submitted them in the proper fashion to the major reviewers. One of my main goals was to reach school librarians. However, the major reviewer, *School Library Journal*, gave my books an extremely low rating.

I was disappointed, however, when I read this statement in *Children's Writer* in "A Reviewer's Eye View" concerning Trevelyn Jones, children's editor of *School Library Journal*, I was outraged. The article stated: "Jones says, however, that didacticism can hurt a book. 'Many very small new publishers think a children's book must have a moral. Those get creamed immediately.'" My books were "creamed" because they were didactic and taught moral lessons. *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* defines didactic as: "a: designed or intended to teach; b: intended to convey instruction and information as well as pleasure and entertainment." To me, books conveying instruction and information as well as pleasure and entertainment, would be an ideal method of education. You may read more about this in the book I wrote, *Character Under Attack and What You Can Do About It* (Book is free at our website under "Free Resources").

Believing strongly that teaching children virtues through interesting

stories would be popular, I continued to write additional character-building children books. The books have been enthusiastically endorsed by parents, educators, and especially children. Twenty of these children's books and read-alongs have won these prestigious awards: Teachers' Choice™ Award, Mom's Choice Award, ForeWord magazine Book of the Year Award, Benjamin Franklin Award, The Communicator Award, Family Review Center Gold Award, iParenting Media Award, and Family Choice Award. Also a number of the books have won the Children's Choice Award cosponsored by International Reading Association and the Children's Book Council. Many of these books have also been translated into foreign languages.

We produced a bilingual version in English and Spanish of these books. We have a recording and video studio and produced 24 Another Sommer-Time Adventure DVDs where I read the books and teach character-building lessons. These videos are currently being shown around the world either on cable or streaming video by [www.smileofachildtv.org](http://www.smileofachildtv.org), the largest children's 24 hour TV program.

I've written 12 character-building graphic novels for upper elementary students and reluctant readers in junior and senior high school, and a complete practical mathematics series, *Number Success*, from addition to trigonometry, supplemented with videos. Four of the teachers have won the prestigious Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics from the National Science Foundation, and I am the practical on-location teacher showing where math is used in the real world. We are currently planning on doing a web version of this program. I've also written a phonics literature-based reading program, *Phonics Adventure*, consisting of over 40 books.

You may receive more information about our company at "About Advance." Our mission statement reveals our passion and purpose: "Providing exciting and inspiring character-building resources that train and motivate children with positive virtues and life skills, which enable them to live successful lives, and results in stronger families, better schools, and a safer and more productive society."