This is a study of an experiment with progressive education in the Springfield schools, 1941-1952. It is based on an interview with Evalyn C. Johnson, who was chairperson of the English/history core area of study.

The implementation of progressive education in Springfield was the result of the efforts of one man, Superintendent of Schools H. P. Study. With agreement by the school board, Study introduced a core curriculum in the high school on a limited basis in 1941. The program was confined to the senior high school, but there was minor involvement by teachers in the segregated school for African-Americans, and educators from surrounding areas expressed some interest in the project. Progressive education in Springfield ended in 1952 with H. P. Study’s resignation as Superintendent.