

# AOW:2 ANTHONY.pdf

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## AOW 2: Homework is Overrated

In recent discussions of homework obligations, a controversial issue has been whether homework should be handed out and how much of it should be handed out. Denise Pope draws attention to this issue in their article “Does Homework Work When Kids Are Learning All Day at Home?”. On the one hand, some argue that homework should be terminated from a student's life altogether. From this perspective, homework has very little benefits such as a study tool, but causes many more problems such as stress and no free time after school. On the other hand, however, others argue that homework should remain the same, or just be slightly adjusted to a smaller assignment. According to this view homework is not a complete waste of time and often gives students a better understanding of the work they are doing. In sum then, the issue is whether students have enough time to complete their work with extra-curricular activities or if their workload is too little or doesn't fully help them learn the subject. My own view is that homework is a good thing, but instead of it being busywork or learning, it needs to be reinforcing the subject the student is learning.

Some types of homework would be better done in class with a teacher nearby to help. According to Denise Pope's studies, “learning when and how to apply algorithms in math or parsing difficult text passages, might be more effective during class, where teachers can clarify misunderstandings and provide feedback and coaching”(Pope). Research shows that teachers who make more time for their students, are more likely to have a more engaged class. Class size is also an important factor, as the teacher may not have enough time to get to every kid. From my own experience, whenever I had a problem and thought the world was about to come crashing down on me, the teacher would give a quick explanation and I would be on my way. Homework has always helped me study the subject, but is never a good result when I don't understand what the teacher wants.

The number one priority is the student, so if they aren't doing the work that's an issue. According to Denise Pope's Studies, “When students perceive homework as busy work, meaningless, or of little value to the teacher, they are less likely to complete it and may become less interested in learning and in school in general”(Pope). A lot of time spent in my early math days were repetitive problems that helped me learn the basic steps of it. But as your problem grows in difficulty, teachers focus more on ‘Do you know **how** to do it?’ rather than ‘Can you do it?’. Clearly if our goal is to perfect the process and not the result, we should aim to do that in class, then work on it outside of class.

In conclusion, if the end goal is to have students completing homework and reinforcing their understanding of the subject, then teachers should definitely send their students home with the basic knowledge. When students get into the work, everyone profits.

#### Works Cited

Pope, Denise "Does Homework Work When Kids Are Learning All Day at Home?" *Washington Post*. Washington Post. 1 September 2020.  
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/09/01/does-homework-work-when-kids-are-learning-all-day-home/>