

Lauren IAOW 2 Downdraft.pdf

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It's Only Twenty Questions! (Times 5)

In recent discussions of students' homework, a controversial issue has been brought up on whether homework is helping or hurting students. 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 has a positive relationship with grades and understanding. From this perspective, homework does help students by allowing them to memorize and repeatedly work with topics. On the other hand, however, others argue that homework takes away from students' time and is only a cause of stress. According to this view, homework is often unnecessary and tedious, serving only as an annoyance. In sum then, the issue is whether homework is beneficial or detrimental. My own view is that getting rid of homework would only benefit the health and grades of students.

It is imperative that teachers realize the detrimental effects of busywork. Work that is only made to give students something to do is not helpful and horrible for mental health. When students were asked "Right now in your life, what, if anything, causes you the most stress?" One of the most common responses was one word: 'Homework.'" (Pope). This should not be the case. During the added stress of the pandemic, homework can cause problems in students' health, social life, and extracurriculars. Though I am obviously biased as a student myself, I also find that my experiences only aid in my argument. I have a clear view of the problem and its effects. I am always stressed when I know I will have to just copy the same material over and over. I can do what each of the problems are asking me to do, but I don't have enough time for as many problems as there are. This stress causes real problems when it comes to the mental and physical health of students. Anything from a cold to depression can develop in this state of constant worry. Teachers must take this into account as they assign homework.

Teachers must remember school is not the only thing in the lives of students. The students like me "who don't turn it [Homework] in or do it incorrectly may have organizational issues or other reasons beyond their control" (Pope). We sometimes have obligations deemed more important by us or our parents. Let's say a teacher assigns a worksheet. It's a small worksheet. The teacher thinks the students will be able to do it easily. Now multiply this by about six classes after students have had an entire day of school plus any extracurricular activities and jobs that they may have. On an average day I have an entire day of school, with homework from about half of my classes. I then have to drive to tennis practice, which takes twenty minutes to get there. I play for two to three hours, then have to drive back to the house for another twenty minutes. After all that, I have dinner. Somedays I also have an hour of ACT tutoring, or have to go to a dinner party with my parents. The dinners can last four hours but usually I don't do all of my tennis on those days. After all of that I am dead tired, and guess what I still have to do? On average, about two hours of homework. Teachers must keep in mind that their class isn't always the top or achievable priority. We are human. We need sleep and food.

In conclusion, the ridding of busywork and possibly homework altogether would only help. Students would have less stress and therefore better overall health. The better health would help their grades, and would allow them to succeed in their extracurriculars as well. School is sometimes not the most important thing going on in a student's life, and teachers must recognize that. Schools should at least reconsider the way homework is treated and assigned by teachers in the context of

students' lives.

Quickwrite

I loathe, hate, and absolutely detest homework. It serves no practical use once you already are well versed in the topic. I feel that many of my peers feel the same exact way. It causes mountains of stress and other horrible feelings. I barely ever have time to do it because of tennis! It is more than just the amount of homework or timing though. I feel if you are able to show that you know the topic in class then homework is not necessary. It sucks when almost every class gives homework. I have two to three hours of tennis everyday after school. Plus the ride there is twenty minutes! I can barely complete my homework when I get home not just because of the amount of time but because I'm so tired already. That's not even considering that on Wednesdays I have an hour of ACT tutoring as well. It is just so aggravating when we are given tedious busywork just because teachers feel the need to have it as part of our grade. What if homework wasn't a part of our grade and just an assessment that we had to do once a week at home. Not graded. That would be both less stressful for the students and helpful for the teachers.

Works Cited

Pope, Denise. "Does Homework Work When Kids Are Learning All Day at Home?" *Washington*

Post, Washington Post, September 1, 2020 at 5:51 a.m. CDT

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2020/09/01/does-homework-work-when-kids-are-learning-all-day-home/>

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