

# AOW 2 olivia h.pdf

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### A New Understanding of Homework

In recent discussions of homework, a controversial issue has been whether assigning homework is actually beneficial for students. Denise Pope draws attention to this issue in her article "Does Homework Work when Kids are Learning All Day at Home?". On the one hand, some argue that homework is necessary for students to better understand the material. From this perspective, homework is needed to further practice and study the lesson, making students do better on tests and comprehend information. On the other hand, however, others argue that homework is an unnecessary stresser for students. According to this view, people find that students see homework as a burden to their everyday lives, restricting them from other activities. In sum then, the issue is whether homework is actually necessary for students or if homework is just an unreasonable time consumer. My own view is that we need to set guidelines for assigning homework so that both the teachers, students, and parents can all be satisfied.

One specific irritable factor about homework that needs action is when the classes are assigned useless busy work. Teachers who assign worksheets "as busy work, meaningless, or of little value" are only discouraging students from giving their full effort (Pope). This causes students to procrastinate their work and is a demotivator to complete assignments. Assignments that won't benefit learning and are just empty questions to fill up time restrict teenagers from prioritizing important assignments and extra curriculars. The same goes for assignments that are nearly impossible to complete. If you didn't teach it, don't assign it for homework. Students will feel confused and frustrated, causing the same effects of busy work. If these time consuming assignments keep consuming all of our after school time, then we have no way to build our resume. Homework can easily become all of a student's lives if they are overloaded with homework. This results in less opportunity to serve, be a part of clubs, athletics, and over freetime is taken away from you. For me, I often find balancing homework, school, and athletics to be very challenging. More often than not, I find myself missing important opportunities such as club meetings and service opportunities because I simply have too much homework. Students need to be assigned homework with benefits and value to their studies.

A compromise can be found between the two extremes with a few simple guidelines that will benefit both parties. First off, students and teachers need to understand the value of the homework assigned. Teachers need to be careful to assign homework that will "increase engagement by clarifying the purpose" (Pope). Busy work and overly complex worksheets need to be eliminated from the delicate homework cycle. Teachers need to be reasonable with what is assigned. The easiest way to go about this would be to only give unfinished worksheets that were given time in class to complete, unfinished projects, reading (ex. Chapter on a book), or unfinished projects for homework. Students will understand that if they don't finish their homework in the allotted time they were given to complete the assignment, then they should have homework. As a teacher, if this doesn't work for you then exercise the 10 minute rule in your classroom. This gives students relief in knowing they will only have 10 minutes of homework from each class and they will also have more freetime to build their resumes, do

clubs, sports, and extracurricular activities.

As we can see, there are easy solutions that will help students manage their homework. If teachers start implementing these rules in their classrooms then both students and teachers can be pleased. This will leave teachers with less papers to grade and students with time to build their resumes. The constant nm burden of homework can finally be relieved!

Work 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/>.