

AOW 2: Hudson Sipes.pdf

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AOW 2: Homework is Killing Students Social Lives

In recent discussions of homework, a controversial issue has been whether we have too much homework and whether homework is useful. 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 helps you understand the topic and you get better grades. From this perspective, homework is useful and can help you practice what you learned in class as well as the more homework you do the better your grades get. On the other hand, however, others argue that homework is an unnecessary stressor that does not help most students. According to this view, homework stresses people out too much and many students do not pay much attention to it so it does not help much. In sum then, the issue is whether homework is useful or homework is not useful. My own view is that teachers should assign homework in small amounts and not as busywork.

The time and amount of homework are very important to this discussion. Denise Pope’s article shows several studies that prove that time spent on homework contributes to how students perform it. Once students spend a certain amount of time on homework they find “diminishing returns on the value of homework”(Pope). This shows that homework needs to be reduced because the amount of time spent on homework and the amount of homework go hand in hand. I would definitely agree with this because I find that when I am doing homework after a while I just want to stop. This will lead me to try less and rush through it just to get it done quickly so I can go do other things. If homework was reduced, I would try harder on it as well as learn the topic better. This would lead to me getting better grades as well as getting more free time and being overall happier and less stressed.

Busy work is not useful and makes students try less and not learn the information. Denise Pope found that students will not try as hard or even complete the homework when they think it is busy work or meaningless. I completely agree with this, in my experience when I “perceive homework as busy work” I try less on it resulting in worse grades and not understanding the concept as well as if a teacher assigned something meaningful(Pope). Busy work also makes me stressed to get it done especially if it’s very long. If I already understand the subject, then I feel there is no reason I am completing the homework. I think teachers should start assigning homework with a purpose instead of busy work so I try harder and understand the concept better.

Another thing about homework is the stress that comes with doing it. Pope did a survey about stress in students’ lives to see if homework was a big cause of stress. When students were asked “what, if anything, causes you the most stress,” the most common response was homework. Now with after-school activities that stress only increases because when you are coming home at 7 you are under a lot of time pressure to get that homework done on time and get to bed at a good hour. Me for example, when I have a lot of homework I come home and the last thing I want to do is homework and it stresses me out because I don’t just want to do homework that night but I need to get it done so I do it. Especially with tests because I have all my other homework I need to do and I need to study enough to be prepared for that test.

Now I do agree with the fact that homework is useful but I think that when it is useful is

situational. I think that teachers need to cut back on the amount of homework and completely eliminate busy work while still providing small things for us to practice the concept this helps all students out a lot and reduces stress.

Work Cited

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