AOW 2: Graham Kennedy.pdf

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Submission date: 01-Nov-2021 11:08AM (UTC-0500)

Submission ID: 1690115349

File name: AOW_2_Graham_Kennedy.pdf (54.69K)

Word count: 671

Character count: 3159

Graham Kennedy Mrs. Wood English 9; 4th hour 28 October 2021

AOW 2: Homework = No Social Life

In recent discussions of homework, a controversial issue has been whether homework works. 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 eliminated. From this perspective, a lot of homework causes students lots of stress and they have no time to do activities. On the other hand, however, others argue that 90 minutes' worth of homework each day is beneficial for students. According to this view, homework is supposed to help students with school. In sum then, the issue is whether no homework will help students or if 90 minutes' worth of homework each day will help students with school. My own view is that while homework is beneficial, the amount of homework should be cut down to be stress-free, while not being just busywork and not conflicting with your extracurriculars.

Homework is beneficial except when students' stress levels worryingly increase. According to Denise Pope's article, A student survey asked what causes you the most stress, and "One of the most common responses was one word: 'Homework'" (Pope). I completely agree with the students that took this survey. From my experience, I had a night filled with homework. I was worried that I wasn't going to finish my homework before the due date. I was stressing that I would get a late penalty on my homework, affecting my overall grade for that class.

Students will put forth little effort when the homework is just busywork. According to Denise Pope's article, "When students perceive homework as busywork, 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). When I receive homework that is just busywork, I try to put as much effort into it as I can. A lot of the time, the homework is not even relevant to what we are learning in class, so it can be really hard to not do your best. When you do not try your best, you can easily not get a good grade on that assignment because you're too lazy to notice or fix any mistakes.

Students can get very overwhelmed with homework when they have no time to finish the hours worth of homework due to extracurricular activities. From my experience, I had to finish hours worth of homework and then study for two tests the next day. I have football practice that ends at 5:30. When I get home, I have to eat and shower. So, I don't get to start my homework till around 6:30. I was so overwhelmed with all of the things I had to do. I had a system to try and get it done quicker. I would study three terms on a quizlet, then I would complete four problems on my geometry packet. Towards the end of my struggles, I was studying half asleep. Around midnight, I had to finally go to sleep. I was planning on completing my last homework assignment during my free time the next day. Luckily, I completed all of my homework on time and got an A on both of my tests.

In conclusion, schools should consider cutting down the amount of time it takes to complete their homework if they want their students to be stress-free while having time to participate in extracurricular activities. Students would still do well on tests if they had ten minutes' worth of homework for each class to practice and review for those tests. Students in return, should do their best to complete the little homework the teachers would give them each day.



Work Cited Pope, Denise. "Does Homework Work When Kids Are Learning All Day at Home?" <i>The Washington Post</i> , The Washington Post. 1 September 2020,					
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