

Homework Debate

Non-Fiction Article

PDF & Digital Formats



2 Peas and a Dog

Middle School Teaching Resources

RESOURCE INCLUDES

- Lesson Plan
- Teacher Instructions
- Individual PDFs for Google Drive
- Google Slides for 1:1 Schools
- Audio file of the article
- Pre-reading K-W-L chart
- Non-fiction article (modified and regular levels)
- 3 Post reading activities
 - ✓ Comprehension questions
 - ✓ Grammar questions
 - ✓ Long response writing

EXAMPLE PAGES

THE HOMEWORK DEBATE

Homework has always been a contentious topic for students, teachers, and parents. This topic has been debated many times regarding its benefits or adverse effects on students.

For many students, the word "homework" is an unpleasant word. Imagine doing more schoolwork at home. Even worse, if you have homework during the weekend.

Teachers say that assignments are necessary to improve learning and reinforce classroom lessons. Some research even suggests that homework has a lot of benefits, especially to middle school students.

When is Homework Considered Enough or Too Much?
Experts from the National Education Association and the National PTA recommend a "10 minute" per grade level nightly homework guideline.

This means first graders should only have 10 minutes of homework and eighth grade students should have a maximum of 80 minutes. This does not mean that higher grade levels should have unlimited hours of homework.



Students Studying

Arguments in Support of Homework

Below are a few benefits of purposeful homework. Homework should only be assigned to students if it improves understanding and is not just additional work.

Homework can improve skills as practice makes perfect. Through homework, students have more time to practice previously taught concepts. Most students need to practice things more than once to fully understand a topic.

It improves collaboration among parents/guardians and students. The family can work together in the learning process to complete the homework.

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K-W-L CHART

Topic: _____

K	W	L
What do I already know about this topic?	What do I want to know about this topic?	What new things did I learn about this topic from the article?

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THINKING QUESTION

Assessment	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Above Expectations
	✓-	✓	✓+

How many minutes per night should students spend on homework? Explain your thinking.

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K-W-L CHART

Topic:

K

W

L

What do I already know about this topic?

What do I want to know about this topic?

What new things did I learn about this topic from the article?

PREVIEW

THE HOMEWORK DEBATE

Homework has always been a contentious topic for students, teachers, and parents. This topic has been debated many times regarding its benefits or adverse effects on students.

For many students, the word "homework" is an unpleasant word. Imagine doing more schoolwork at home. Even worse, if you have homework during the weekend.

Teachers say that assignments are necessary to improve learning and reinforce classroom lessons. Some research even suggests that homework has a lot of benefits, especially for middle school students.

When homework is assigned in English or math. Experts from the National Education Association and the National PTA recommend a "10 minute" per grade level nightly homework guideline.

This means first graders should only have 10 minutes of homework and eighth grade students should have a maximum of 80 minutes. This does not mean that higher grade levels should have unlimited hours of homework.



Students sitting on a bench reading books.

Arguments supporting homework include the following benefits of homework. Homework should only be assigned to students who are capable of completing it. Homework improves understanding and is not just additional work.

Homework can improve skills as practice makes perfect. Through homework, students have more time to practice previously taught concepts. Most students need to practice things more than once to fully understand a topic.

It improves collaboration among parents/guardians and students. The family can work together in the learning process to complete the homework.

SAMPLE ANSWERS

1. How much nightly homework do experts recommend?

Experts from the National Education Association and the National PTA recommend a "10 minute" per grade level nightly homework guideline.

2. How can homework improve families?

It improves collaboration among parents/guardians and students. The family can work together in the learning process to complete the homework. It can also bring families closer, since working together will allow for more family time and communication.

3. In what way does homework help solve for the lack of time at school?

Homework can address this lack of time through additional practice activities that enhance the day's lesson.

4. Besides providing additional practice, what else does homework teach students?

Homework teaches responsibility.

5. Why have studies shown a decline in math and science scores?

Studies have shown that when students are given more than 90–100 minutes of homework daily, their math and science scores declined.

6. Explain the meaning of the word socialization. (2 marks)

... is the socialization with friends (socialization). Socialization develops good interpersonal communication skills.

7. What are some things that every student may NOT have at home to help them with their homework?

Not all homes have a usable homework spot. Not all students have access to high speed internet, technology and other required homework materials. Some students might not have anyone to help them if they have homework questions.

8. You pick! Are you for or against homework? Share your opinion using details from the article or your own experiences. (2 marks)

Answers will vary.

THINKING QUESTION

Assessment	Below Expectations	Meets Expectations	Above Expectations
	✓-	✓	✓+

How many minutes per night should students spend on homework? Explain your thinking.

PREVIEW