

Author's Notes

This is the <sup>4</sup>fourth draft of my essay about why I think there should be less homework. My paper goes through many examples on why giving a lot of homework is a bad idea. Since the first draft, I have made a number of changes, not only in grammar, but also trying to shape the paper as a whole. On my first few drafts, the difficulty I had was trying to make it sound more reflective and less persuasive. Another difficulty was that all of what I was saying wasn't necessarily trying to convince others. <sup>good to know</sup> What I was saying was coming from within me. In fact, this paper is one of the first in which I really didn't have to think too much about what I needed to write; I just wrote. I feel like it all flowed out of me, almost like I was writing a journal. It still sounded persuasive though, including to the people who read my paper. They did, however, give a lot of helpful ways to make it more reflective. For example, they suggested that I use more stories about myself, as well as using more "I's" to talk about how I felt. I also went to the Writing Resource Center and Abby Goodwin helped me a lot with it. She gave some of the same suggestions as my group, but she also added a lot more detail. One of the things everyone said was to know my audience. <sup>\*</sup>I actually had intended this to be geared towards people my age and older. What I liked about the piece was that I felt that everything in it was from me; it wasn't <sup>another good detail for me to have</sup> said by anyone else. The words almost flowed from my hands to the computer. What I didn't like about it was how persuasive it sounded to others. I could see how everyone thought it was persuasive, but I was <sup>It's okay if it does. don't worry!</sup> really reflecting on this paper. If I had any questions for this reader, it would be "Can you hear me in this paper? Does it sound like me? Do you think it is more persuasive, reflective, or a good combination of both? If it sounded more persuasive, how can I make it more reflective?"

Julio Gutierrez P.8

Mr. Schreurs

**Rationale**

I thought I worked very hard on this reflective paper. I think that my grade should be around a 95%. Even though I was gone for a few days because of cross country, I still made up all the work and reviewed all my group's papers. Also, for this project I tried to take advantage of the Writing Resource Center to help sharpen my paper. I was paired up with Abby Goodwin and she helped me a lot. She gave helpful hints and helped with the details of my paper. I also asked a few people who were not in my class on their perspectives on homework. I feel like I worked really hard on this project and it has been a good experience as well.

A good decision  
It shows

Julio Gutierrez

Creative Writing P.8

Mr. Schreurs

Less Homework

“People might actually learn better without a lot of homework.” A fellow peer of mine told me this as I was discussing this paper with him. He and I both agreed that a lot of assignments can sometimes get in the way of the enjoyment of learning. Every teenager likes to have fun and people do like to learn, but the amount of homework that my friends and I have in each of our classes can make us have negative attitudes towards it.

First of all, I know that all of us as teenagers want to have fun. I can speak from experience because I am a teenager myself and I want to enjoy things. People do not want to be like me when I was a freshman. I did not do any extracurricular activities except for JV soccer in the spring. I went home and did my homework until I was done, and then I went to bed. That was my routine every weeknight because I had so much homework. There were times when I had to stay up past midnight working on my assignments. It was really odd because a house full of nine other people is always loud, but when it was extremely quiet at night, it was almost eerie. It was really boring and I was not very happy with myself because I was not spending very much time with my friends. Now, one of the things I do for fun is run cross country. I do it for a few reasons. One is to strengthen endurance for soccer which I will play in the spring. But the other reason is so that I would enjoy myself and possibly make new friends. I have loved to run for many years and it is always more fun when you are doing things with friends. A lot of us like to hang out with friends, whether it's going to a movie, going shopping, or having a party at someone's house. We all like to do fun things. Sometimes though, homework can get in the way.

Could you give the  
more business  
that a good  
way to start

Good  
person  
enough

Good transition to  
the topic  
at hand

Over the last nine days, I have had an average of about five classes each day that assign homework. Sometimes, I am able to get one or two subjects done in my twenty minute study hall in fifth period, but that still leaves three left to do for home, and they are usually the time-consuming ones. Already, it can be about three hours of homework a night, and that's not even counting the chores I need to do around the house.

A friend of mine said that he had so much homework one week that he went to bed at around one o'clock each night because he had about three or four hours of assignments to complete. Another classmate said that he would be happy if he went to bed at midnight because there were many times where he went to bed in the early morning. Even though we can live through the short hours of sleep, we really should be getting at least eight hours of sleep a night. Teenagers are the ones who need the sleep most of all because our brains are still developing. Little sleep can also affect the way we learn in class and how we feel during the day. It limits the way we concentrate on what the teachers are saying as well as figuring out ways to solve problems.

I am taking two AP classes this year and a writing course that is generally taken by seniors. Also, math classes get a little bit more difficult and may take more time. I am not even taking some of the harder classes, yet mine are still tough, leaving me up at night later than I would like. I also know that other students are taking different classes and they are struggling just to get work done. They may be spending one or two hours each night on the one class.

Because teachers assign a lot of homework, we either do not have time to do it, or are simply just too lazy. I don't have any sympathy for those who are lazy, but I do know that there are a great number of students that work on homework the morning it is due and use other students' homework to copy. As I walked through the junior hallway in a span of less than one

Lots of homework  
Time-consuming

Lots of homework  
Time-consuming

Teens need sleep

What makes each of your paragraphs unique? Some feel like they are saying the same thing as other paragraphs. Make some each paragraph has it's own unique message

Lots of homework  
Time-consuming

Lots of homework  
Time-consuming

minute, I counted about thirty people working on homework. This may become a problem because students tend to worry more about getting an assignment done rather than actually retaining the knowledge for themselves. Then, when the quizzes and tests come around, the students who copied the assignments don't get very high scores. People might also focus more in class if they knew that they didn't have to work on an assignment later in the day. I know I would. One of the newer methods that I generally like is the option to do homework. This happens in both of my math classes. In AP Statistics, my teacher gives us the option of doing the assignment. If we really understand the concepts of the lesson learned that day and we feel that we do not need extra practice, we don't need to complete the assignment. She is also alright with us doing just some of the problems if we need to work on certain areas. This is very convenient because we don't have the pressure of getting the homework done. My Pre-Calculus teacher uses this approach as well and she does it to avoid cheating. Both teachers though, do have six-point quizzes a few times a week at the beginning of class to test our knowledge from the previous day. In this technique, it makes it a little bit more enjoyable to learn.

Let's  
want  
to  
be able  
to  
have  
any  
part  
way  
of just  
adding  
example  
after

Sometimes though, homework can make learning less fun. People love to learn. It is one of our natural instincts. We all like to figure out how to do things and perform certain tasks to make our lives easier. We also want to learn as much as we can about the world. There are points though, when learning may not be very enjoyable. One of the ways that this can happen is by assigning too much homework. If teachers do that to their students, the students might have negative attitudes on the class, as well as the material that is being taught. This might affect their grades or even the whole class in general. I know that if it happened to me, I would still do the assignment, except I would not enjoy doing it at all. That urge to learn can occasionally be lessened.

also more  
powerful  
language  
Seems to be  
your passion

I am not saying that homework is bad though. There are times when there is not enough time in class to do everything. There are times when we do have to learn some things on our own. I understand that. I think we all do. What I do not want though is for teachers to give many assignments on a continual basis and make it so that we do not enjoy it anymore. I think it would be very beneficial not to assign homework every day so that the student would be able to enjoy the class and the material that he or she is learning.

Teenagers love to have fun and to learn. Sometimes though, a lot of homework weakens that strive to attain as much knowledge as we can. It can lead to not understanding the material being taught and bad grades, as well as limited sleep. We hardly put in the effort anymore because there is too much homework being given. We might cheat and when the time comes to take a test, we could get a bad score and it would lower our grades. My friends and I would retain the information a lot better and enjoy learning more if we did not have as much homework.