

Homework

Homework is a constructive tool in the teaching/learning process when geared to the needs and abilities of students. Purposeful assignments not only enhance student achievement, but also develop self-discipline associated with good working habits. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized, must be viewed as purposeful to the students, and should be evaluated and returned to students in a timely manner.

The type, quantity, and frequency of homework assignments are to be planned and coordinated by the faculty so as not to place excessive demands and pressures on individual students.

Teachers may give homework to students to aid in the students' educational development. Homework should be an application or adaptation of a classroom experience and should not be assigned for disciplinary purposes.

Homework assignments should meet the following requirements:

1. Instruction on how to study and how to approach homework is important. The student must understand what is to be done and what methods and procedures should be used.
2. New and difficult work should be reserved for classroom instruction.
3. Homework should be related directly to classroom work, giving students an opportunity to integrate and apply what they have learned.
4. Homework should meet the student's level of maturity and provide motivation, challenge, variety, and interest.
5. Assignments must be worthwhile and varied, including recreational reading, reading for information, written composition, research problems, practice in problem solving, and other basic skills. "Busy work" should never be assigned.
6. Classroom follow up is a must. Instructors should read or otherwise check the homework and inform students of the quality of such work.
7. Instructors should use the quality of student homework as a gauge of their teaching effectiveness and re-teach where necessary.

Homework should not require additional instruction. However, parent interest and involvement may be appropriate and is encouraged. Parents should share responsibility by:

1. Providing a proper environment for study.
2. Making necessary materials available.
3. Freeing the student from interruptions and conflicting demands during the designated home study period.
4. Encouraging the student to finish assigned work.
5. Giving advice only when necessary, but not doing or letting others do the assigned work.

Elementary School

Regular homework assignments are permissible in accordance with the guidelines above. The amount and difficulty of homework should increase as students' progress through the elementary grades. The amount of time required for homework assignments should be limited to five to ten minutes for the younger students and should increase slightly in the 4th grade.

Junior/Senior High School

Homework at the junior and senior high school level is increasingly important for continuity and integration in the learning process and to promote increased responsibility and self-discipline. The amount of homework assigned by the faculty is particularly important when no study halls are scheduled. Instructors should make a cooperative effort so as not to overload students. When possible, homework assignments should be made on a weekly, biweekly, project, or unit basis to allow students to budget their time more effectively and to prevent immediate overloads.

Policy History:

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