

Homework

Homework is an assignment to be prepared or completed other than during the regular class time. It is developmental in nature and increases in scope with the maturity and capabilities of the student. Homework, properly planned and purposeful in nature, should help the student to:

1. Learn to work independently and become self-reliant
2. Think, plan, organize, and apply
3. Extend proficiency in effective habits and skills
4. Increase knowledge and its use
5. Develop insights and stimulate creativity

Suggested Time Guide for Homework

K - None

1-2 - 15-30 min

3-4 - 20-40 min

5-6 - 30-60 min

7-8 - 60-90 min

9-12 - 1.5-2.5 hrs

The term "homework" refers to an assignment to be prepared during a period of supervised study in class or outside of class or which requires individual work in study hall, classroom, or home. The purposes of homework are to improve the learning process, to aid in the mastery of skills, and to create and stimulate interest on the part of the pupil. Homework is a learning activity which should increase in complexity with the maturity of the pupil. With increased maturity learning should become an independent activity. This should be established through consistent assignments which encourage students to investigate for themselves and to work independently as well as with others.

Homework assignments should have meaning within the overall context of instruction in the class and should be a properly planned part of the curriculum, extending and reinforcing the learning experiences of the school. The purposes should be clearly understood by both the teacher and the pupil. In classes where homework is used as a learning activity, assignments should be consistent in terms of the amount given each day and the time required for each assignment so that a pattern can be established by the teacher and/or the student. The information for any homework assignment should be clear and specific so the pupil can complete the assignment. Homework assignments should take into consideration individual differences of pupils such as health, ability, conditions at home, and educational resources at home. Homework should not require the use of reference materials not readily available in school libraries or the public library and should require the use of those materials only when the pupil has had instruction in the use of them. There are many other learning activities in the life of a student besides homework. Such things as participating in school activities, pursuing cultural interests, participating in family living, and exploring personal interests should be considered by teachers when planning consistent assignments. Homework assignments should be coordinated among teachers and should be within the limit of expected probability for accomplishment by the student. Homework is not to be used as a form of punishment under any circumstances. As a valid educational tool, homework should be clearly assigned and its product carefully evaluated on a continuing basis.

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