

Should Homework Be

BANNED

?

Homework has always been a part of public school in our country. Most teachers give homework. Students know to expect work to take home. But recently, some schools have actually banned homework. We still don't completely understand whether homework helps or hurts students.

Homework Helps

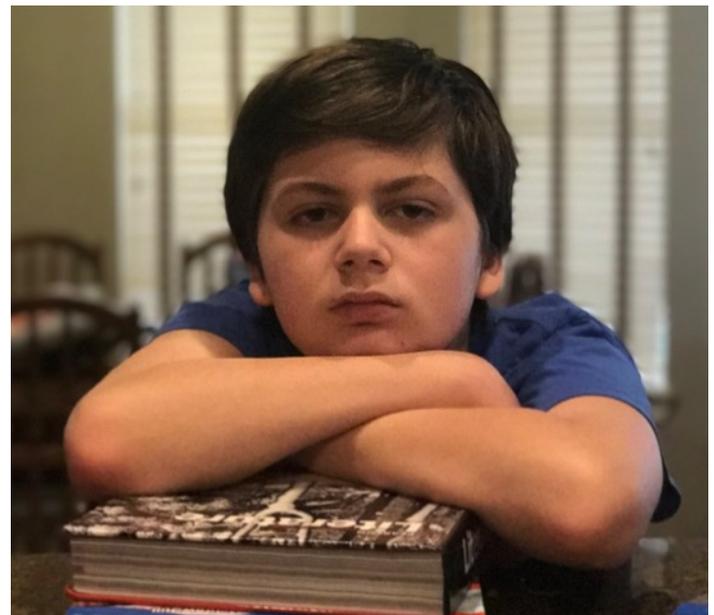
One reason homework is important is that it can improve memory. Students learn information in the classroom, but if they do not practice recalling or apply the knowledge then it may slip away. Homework gives students a way to use what they learned in class. This can make it easier to remember what they learned for a long time.

Homework can also help teachers cover more skills. Teachers often have to teach a huge amount in a school year. But they just don't have enough class time with students to teach everything. Homework gives extra learning time.

Some also argue that homework teaches responsibility and time management. Students must keep track of their homework assignments, schedule in time to complete their homework, and remember to turn in assignments. When homework is not done, they may face consequences. This teaches students to meet expectations and helps to prepare them for adult life.

Another benefit is family involvement. When students bring work home, they can have the adults in their lives help them. Families can see what their children are working on in school.

There is also research to support the benefits of homework. In 2006 Duke University did a large study of homework and success in school. This study found that students who did homework performed better in school.



"Most of the homework I get is just busywork." - Wyatt, 7th Grader

Homework Hurts

Homework critics argue that not every student has access to the same things to help them complete homework. In order to benefit from homework, students need the right support, time, and space to get the work done. Some students may not have families that can or want to help them with their homework. This puts them at a disadvantage. For students with learning disabilities, homework without help may be impossible.

It can also be hard to make students do their homework. If a student does not do homework for whatever reason, a teacher has only a few options to get the student back on track. They can give a lower grade, but not all students care about their grades. They can talk to the student's family, but not all families are very involved with school. They can try to help students see the connection between hard work in school and future success. But this can be very challenging. If teachers rely on homework as an important part of their classes, what happens to students for whom homework is not possible?

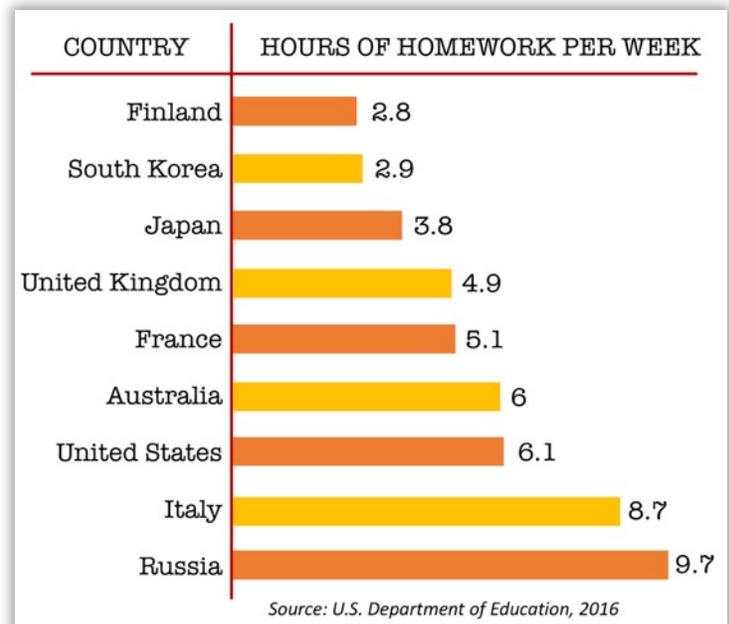
A major reason for homework-free schools is that children need time to play. Play helps children develop problem solving skills, creative thinking, and social intelligence. Today, between heavier loads of homework and after-school activities, many children don't have time for this kind of free play.

Finally, some people say that stress is a big reason to ban homework. The Stanford Graduate School of Education did a study that revealed 56% of high school students said homework was very stressful. Stress is linked to a lot of health issues.

Clearly, there are many good and bad aspects to homework for students. Until we know more, teachers should be careful about giving homework to their students.



Not all students live in a home with a supportive homework environment.



Comprehension Quiz

Choose the best answer according to the article.

1. According to the article, recent headlines have highlighted which practice related to homework?
 - a. banning homework
 - b. increasing homework
 - c. completing homework at school
 - d. allowing parents to do their children's homework
2. Homework can force students to...
 - a. learn unnecessary information.
 - b. forget what they learned in class.
 - c. apply and use knowledge they learned in class.
 - d. turn off the television.
3. Which is **NOT** a benefit of homework?
 - a. strengthens the working memory
 - b. helps teachers meet curriculum goals
 - c. keeps students out of trouble
 - d. teaches responsibility and time management skills
4. What did a 2006 Duke University study reveal about students who did homework?
 - a. they performed poorly in school
 - b. they performed better in school
 - c. they went to college
 - d. they were more likely to join extracurricular activities
5. Which of these is necessary for students to successfully complete homework?
 - a. support
 - b. time
 - c. space
 - d. all of these
6. Which type of student may struggle to find assistance with their homework?
 - a. students with disabilities
 - b. students with two parents
 - c. students who ask questions after school
 - d. students who have a lot of friends
7. Why might teachers struggle to enforce homework?
 - a. because not all principals are strict
 - b. because some school districts do not have enough funding
 - c. because there is a teacher shortage
 - d. because not all students have supportive families
8. What is one reason why homework-free schools disagree with assigning homework?
 - a. Students should spend more time on social media.
 - b. Homework-free schools are trending.
 - c. Students need free time at home.
 - d. All students have access to tutors.



Comprehension Quiz

Answer each question according to the article.

1. According to the article, recent headlines have highlighted what practice related to homework?

2. Homework can force students to...

3. Name at least two benefits of homework from the article.

4. What did a 2006 Duke University study reveal about students who did homework?

5. What conditions are necessary for students to successfully complete homework?

6. Which type of student may struggle to find assistance with their homework?

7. Why might teachers struggle to enforce homework?

8. What is one reason why homework-free schools disagree with assigning homework?
