



Haggling About Homework

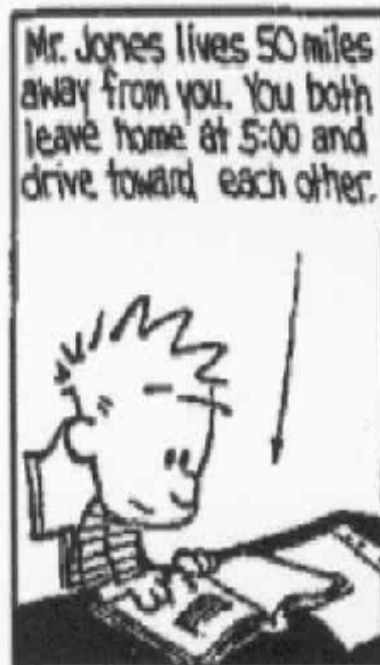
First in four part series of Parent Forums

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Calvin And Hobbes by *Bill Watterson* ?? Copyright ??? by Universal Press Syndicate

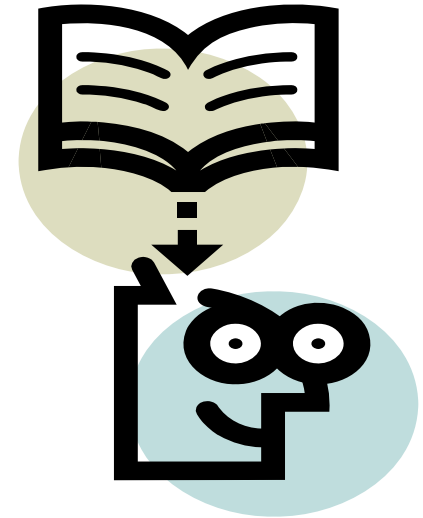
Homework

What is it?



Homework comes in many forms, including...

- Worksheets
- Practice problems from textbook
- Readings
- Short answers
- Research / fact finding work
- Writing assignments
- Project work
- Study for test/quiz

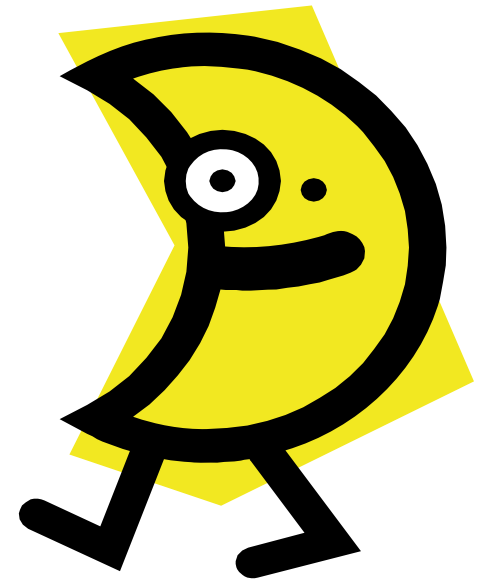


Why do homework?

- Reinforcement / practice of skills taught
- Comprehension of material
- Reflection on material
- Preparation for upcoming class activity
- Extension of a lesson
- Preparation for an exam
- Practice organizational / study skills

Two general types of homework

- Nightly
- Long term



Nightly homework

Might include things like...

- Review of the day's lesson
- Reinforcement of a day's lesson

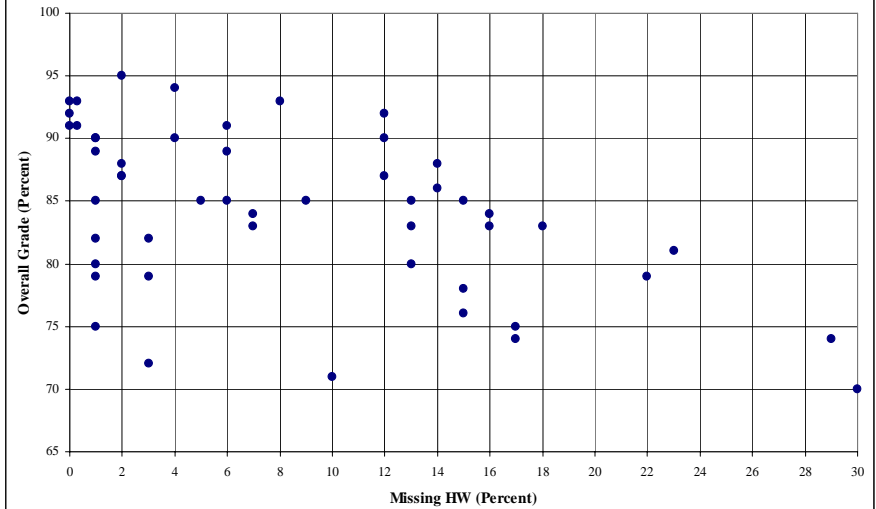
Importance...

- Good check for the student to verify that he or she is keeping up with the teacher's expectations.
- Excellent study tool to review before exams.

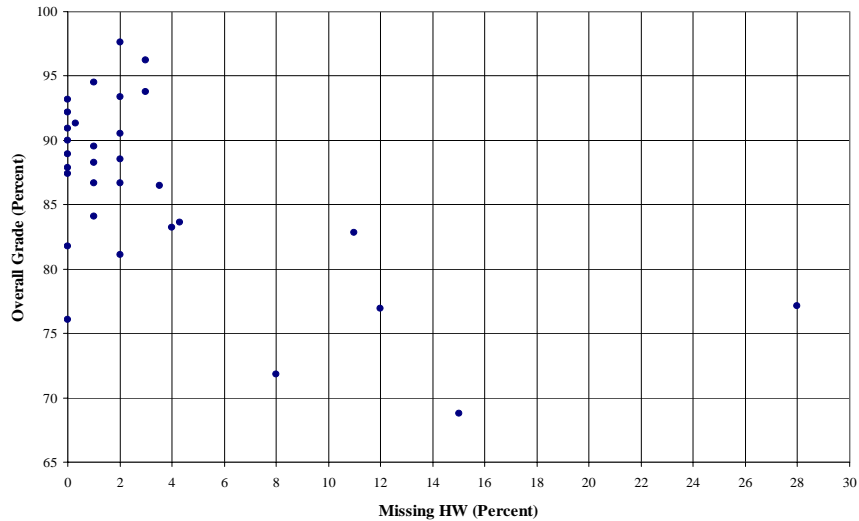
The Importance of Homework

% Missing HW vs. Overall Grade
(8th Grade Math)

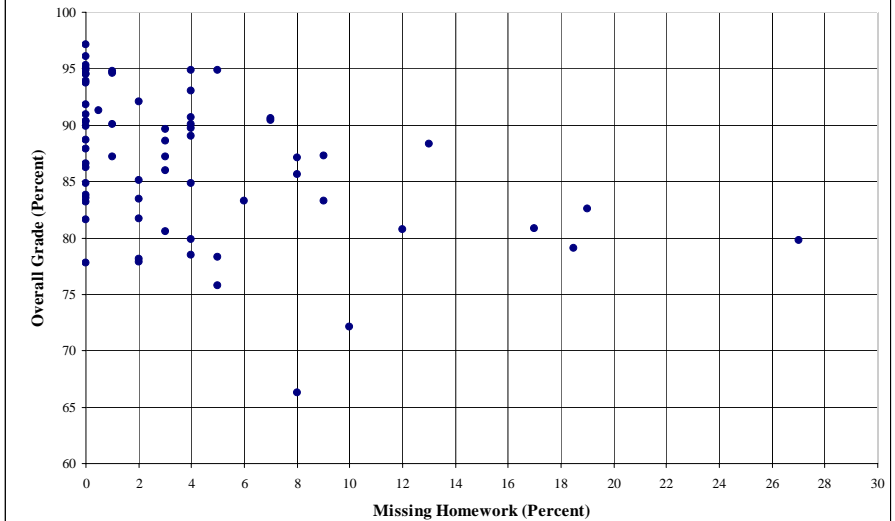
Missing HW vs. Overall Grade (Standard)



Missing HW vs. Overall Grade (Honors)



Missing HW vs. Overall Grade (A/E)



The Importance of Homework

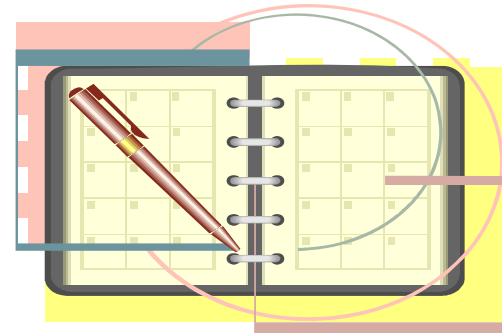
	Does HW (missing HW < 2%)	Misses HW (missing HW > 5%)
Made High Honor Roll	50%	12%
Made High Honor Roll or Honor Roll	93%	65%

Long-term homework

Might include things like:

- Lengthy reading
- Reflective questions
- Research or project work
- Lengthy writing assignments

...things which take longer than one night to do,
and may require organization and time
management.



Time management



- Teachers often give “steps” or “benchmarks” to help students plan their time on the assignment.
- The ultimate goal is to help students eventually learn to do this for themselves, and balance their homework with other activities in their schedules.

Self-advocacy

- Careful reading of directions is often crucial in long-term, multi-step homeworks.
- This reinforces the importance of attention to detail.
- Students are encouraged to approach teachers for help or feedback along the way.



Homework oh Homework

by Jack Prelutsky

Homework! Oh, homework!
I hate you! You stink!
I wish I could wash you
away in the sink.
If only a bomb
would explode you to bits.
Homework! Oh, homework!
You're giving me fits.

I'd rather take baths
with a man-eating shark,
or wrestle a lion
alone in the dark,
eat spinach and liver,
pet ten porcupines,
than tackle the homework
my teacher assigns.

Homework! Oh, homework!
You're last on my list
I simply don't see
why you even exist.
If you just disappeared
it would tickle me pink.
Homework! Oh, homework!
I hate you! You stink!


Common homework “snags”

- Not putting enough time / effort into homework
- Refusing to do homework
- Not bringing assignments home to do
- Taking too long to finish homework
- Waiting until the last minute to do it
- Not using their agenda book



Tips & strategies

- ✓ Establish a consistent study time and place
- ✓ Reduce or eliminate distractions
- ✓ Do the "hard stuff" first
- ✓ Take breaks when needed

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- ✓ Make a weekly homework schedule which includes long-term projects
 - ✓ Check teacher websites to confirm assignments
 - ✓ Encourage students to ask for help when needed....from you or a "homework buddy"
 - ✓ Pack backpack before going to bed

How much help should I give?

- Offer assistance with explanation of concepts or directions, if possible.
- Give feedback on clarity of written work.
- Don't overdo it. Stay age appropriate and on task.
- Encourage your child to see the teacher for help & feedback.
- Consistently praise your child's efforts....with emphasis on progress & learning rather than grades.

What if my child isn't doing homework?

- State clearly that you expect homework to be completed.
- Check that agenda book is properly filled out.
- Offer small incentives.
- Impose small, immediate consequences if homework isn't done.
- Stay away from long term consequences.

Most importantly...

- Keep lines of communication open with teachers.
- Call, email or set up a team meeting to discuss further strategies if necessary.