Persuasive Essay

INTRODUCTION

*Claim:*

Hook

Look at issue from opposite side (reel them in)

Transition:

However….

Thesis: The issue(s) and the solution(s)

BODY

*Reasons:*

Why the issue needs to be changed (may be anecdotal)

*Evidence: Aim for 4*

What evidence do you have that this is an issue?

What evidence do you have that your solution will work?

*Counterclaim(s):*

Any argument the opposing side could make against your claim

Why the counterclaims don’t hold water and your idea is sound

CONCLUSION

*Reflect:*

Repeat/rephrase your proposal and how positive it will be to follow your idea

***Be sure to plan at least 4 persuasive strategies and 2 types of propaganda into your essay.***

**To do Homework or not to do Homework…that is the Question**

“Traaaa-cy!” My mom’s voice came wafting up the stairs. “Come do your chores!”

“I can’t!” I call back down. “I have too much homework!”

“Why did you wait till the last minute to do it?” My mom’s stern gaze comes up to me at the top of the stairs.

“I didn’t!” I protest. “It was all assigned today!”

My mom is not happy that I won’t be doing my chores yet again. Not only that, but she had planned a week ago that we would be having company over, and I beg out of that dinner too. Resignedly, she turns to do all the chores I was supposed to do so the house looks decent for our guests. I understand that homework is to prepare me for college and the real world and that if I do the homework, I will also be ready for any quizzes or tests. The problem is, homework also cuts into family time and my other obligations I have at home. Homework needs to be structured in such a way that any busy work is excluded and only important projects with extended due dates are demanded.

There are many reasons why the excessive homework students have now needs to be rethought. Many students are involved in extracurricular activities, such as sports, that are just as important in keeping bodies healthy, active, and fit. As any psychologist or doctor would agree, a healthy body creates an active, inquisitive mind. Due to sports, students may travel more at certain times of the year. Receiving so much homework does not help us to keep a balance between a healthy mind and body. It also produces stress. Not only are the students stressed trying to get everything done to their highest effort on time, but teachers are stressed trying to manipulate students to hand it in completed on time. More is added to their work load as they make calls home or email parents. Parents are stressed as they see their kids’ GPAs dropping because they are being pulled too many different directions to do everything well the first time. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, students do not have time for their other obligations – like household chores, their job, or family activities.

By only sending students home with the most important work (like projects they will complete over time), all the busy work that is not as important can be excluded. Teachers should create their lesson plans in such a way that the most important aspects of a unit are completed in class. In this way, they will be better able to evaluate who is learning, who needs further clarification, who is struggling, or who needs more challenged. Assigning homework with extended due dates will also enable the students to wisely schedule their time, an important life skill. Is there a basketball game this weekend in Wasilla? Then I should make time during the school week to chip away at this project to make up for having little to no time this weekend. Is mom planning a family get together this weekend? Then I need to plan my week accordingly. Teachers will have fewer calls home to make because students will be more likely to hand the work in. Parents, students, and teachers will be less stressed about Junior’s GPA and failing marks.

Opponents may argue that homework is important to cement certain skills and to underscore what has already been taught so that the students are practicing new knowledge to make it theirs. I would question this logic. Does it make sense that we learn under stress? What if we practice our new knowledge wrongly – do all the math questions incorrectly? What have we just learned? Haven’t we just formed a bad habit? There needs to be a better balance.

Certainly some homework is necessary and important. Evaluate assignments for what is the most important. Provide sensible due dates. Enable students to be successful. Burdening kids down with excessive homework robs them of the joy of learning. As a society and as a district, we need to be careful that we support students in learning by optimizing what is presented in class versus what is expected from home.