Re-Thinking Homework

The Debate Continues!

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Two big questions:

● What is the expected outcome of the homework?
● What makes the assignment so critical to do exclusively outside the classroom?
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Start with the CULTURE....

- I have to give homework or I will be considered an easy teacher
- I can not cover all the topics so I will assign homework
- The students need more practice so I will issue homework
- I have to give homework because that’s the way it's been done forever
- And the list goes on.....

The CULTURE has changed!
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The Culture Has Changed....

- The challenges at home
- Today’s technology & social media
- Demands on time
- Peer pressures & stress
- One size fits all format
Get A Balance....

- A balance at home (*educate parents*)
- A balance at school including homework
- A balanced social life
- A balance to the work schedule
- A balance of technology & social media
- A balance with sports & exercise
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Best Practices….

- Homework design & scheduling
- Differentiation
- Deemphasizing the homework grade
- Improve completion rate
- Implementing new strategies & support
### Re-Thinking Homework

#### Homework Design
- Short activity - helps keep student focused and attentive
- Variety - provide different HW activities
- Technology - use assets at school or home
- Blend - create joint homework assignments with other departments
- Consider “Self Study” as HW
- Consider a Team HW activity with a friend
- Make HW - one question (ER)

#### Scheduling
- Select a day designation by department (Tuesday is Math HW Day)
- Reduce HW to twice per month
- Provide a flexible time period for completion
- Offer incentives for completion
- Encourage HW participation in the library, media center or during a study hall
- Do homework in class for a change of pace (last 10 minutes of class) - Great for 1 to 1 schools
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Differentiation

- Use data to drive HW
- Focus on individual areas of needed improvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>By Topics</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>CR Answered Topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Observation and Measurement - Percent Error</td>
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<tr>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Observation and Measurement - Density</td>
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<td>Observation and Measurement - Classification</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Observation and Measurement - Observation and Inference</td>
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De-emphasizing

- Be Careful
- Assigned work should be completed
- Clear expectations
- What’s the Weight?
- Student’s ability to complete & their effort
# Re-Thinking Homework

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Completion Rate</th>
<th>New Strategies</th>
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| ● Consider a team competition (class vs class) for completion - not grading  
● Allow for retry answer to be considered for completion and grading = Growth!  
● Higher the completion rate the less HW get assigned | ● Mix some Math with a PE activity  
● Group Homework assignment  
● Let the students create a HW activity  
● Flipped classroom concept  
● Self assessment |