

# Re-Thinking

# Homework

*The Debate Continues!*

Karen Bronson, SAANYS

Scott Fischer, Castle Learning

PROS &  
CONS

FOR



AGAINST

PROS &  
CONS

# Re-Thinking . . . .



## re·think

*verb*

gerund or present participle: **re-thinking**

/rēˈTHiŋk/

think again about (something such as a policy or course of action), especially in order to make changes to it.

"the government was forced to rethink its plans"

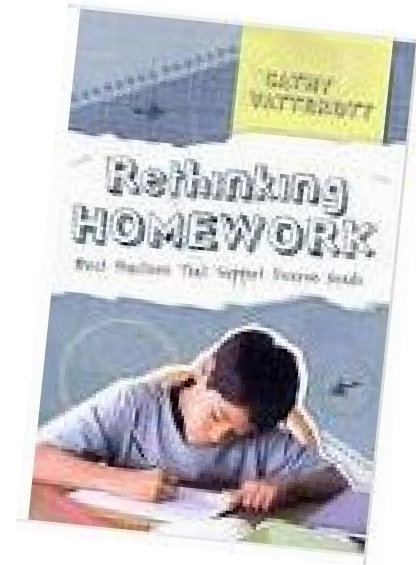
## Two big questions:

- What is the expected outcome of the homework?
- What makes the assignment so critical to do exclusively outside the classroom?

# Re-Thinking Homework

Best Practices That Support Diverse Needs

**Cathy Vatterott**



Association for Supervision & Curriculum Development, 2009

# Re-Thinking Homework

## 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

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## 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



# Re-Thinking Homework

## **Best Practices....**

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









# Re-Thinking Homework

Homework Design	Scheduling
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Short activity - helps keep student focused and attentive</li><li>● Variety - provide different HW activities</li><li>● Technology - use assets at school or home</li><li>● Blend - create joint homework assignments with other departments</li><li>● Consider “Self Study” as HW</li><li>● Consider a Team HW activity with a friend</li><li>● Make HW - one question (ER)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Select a day designation by department (Tuesday is Math HW Day)</li><li>● Reduce HW to twice per month</li><li>● Provide a flexible time period for completion</li><li>● Offer incentives for completion</li><li>● Encourage HW participation in the library, media center or during a study hall</li><li>● Do homework in class for a change of pace (last 10 minutes of class) - Great for 1 to 1 schools</li></ul>

# Re-Thinking Homework

## Differentiation

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

By Topics	Score	✓	✗	✗	CR	Answered	Topics
	50	2	3	1	0	0	Observation and Measurement -Percent Error
	50	3	4	1	0	0	Observation and Measurement -Density
	100	1	0	1	0	0	Observation and Measurement -Classification
	50	1	1	0	0	0	Observation and Measurement -Observation and Inference

## De-emphasizing

- Be Careful
- Assigned work should be completed
- Clear expectations
- What's the Weight?
- Student's ability to complete & their effort



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## Completion Rate

- 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



## New Strategies

- Mix some Math with a PE activity
- Group Homework assignment
- Let the students create a HW activity
- Flipped classroom concept
- Self assessment



# Re-Thinking Homework

Questions