

Dear Dr. Malchesky,

Perry Local Schools had done a great job at making sure there students are successful. We think that Perry's education system has improved a lot over the years. However, we believe that the content of homework that students get sent home with is not effective enough..

We believe that the homework assigned to students is not effective enough because it doesn't involve critical thinking. Critical thinking is the analysis of facts to form a judgement or answer. It is a very important skill that students need to have in life and the type of homework students get does not involve the development of that skill. The University of Tennessee Chattanooga says that "Through technology, the amount of information available today is massive. This information explosion is likely to continue in the future. Students need a guide to weed through the information and not just passively accept it." In a lot of situations, students look to the back of a math textbook for an answer, or spark note a book that they have to read. This type of homework is not effective enough because the student never learns if they are copying down answers.

The solution is quite clear. We believe teachers should change the content of there homework to encourage kids to think critically. For math classes, give students math problems where they won't have access to the answers in the back of a textbook. Maybe rewrite the questions on paper and give it to students that way. For English classes, give students more in depth questions about the books they have to read in class. For example, questions that students will know if they actually read the book instead of using spark notes. For science and social studies classes, give students homework that students can't look up the answers to online. In some of the science and social studies classes, I would be given homework where the answers are on a pdf or a website.

There are many benefits to changing the content of homework. Homework that involves more critical thinking way more effective because it will cause students to actually think through the problems and questions at hand. Also it will allow students to better understand the ideas they were in and outside of class. As mentioned critical thinking is a very important skill to have. This new content of homework can really benefit kids in the future because they will be able to analyse what's in front of them and be able to think through questions independently. The University of Waterloo says that "critical thinking skills are crucial for independent thinking and problem solving in both our students' professional and personal lives". Another benefit is that it will better prepare students for exams because students will get better practice.

Some might say that the homework we have now is fine or that the homework we have now prepares students just fine. The homework we have now might be effective but it is not effective enough. Especially for the students who are more in the struggling side, this will help them better understand concepts. The solution is very clear. Perry Local Schools needs to change the content of homework for the success of students.

Resources:

<https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/teaching-resources/teaching-tips/developing-assignments/cross-discipline-skills/promoting-assessing-critical-thinking>

<https://www.utc.edu/walker-center-teaching-learning/teaching-resources/ct-ps.php>