

Section 1:

#1 "First, homework is a major source of stress and anxiety for students. Studies show that excessive homework contributes to high levels of stress, sleep deprivation, and even depression. A University study found that 56% of students reported feeling stressed because of homework, with many spending several hours each night on assignments. This stress often undermines students' mental health, making learning a source of anxiety rather than enjoyment. Imagine how much better students would feel if they didn't have this constant pressure hanging over them."

Strengths: Your effective use of emotional appeal connects with readers. Your rhetorical question at the end engages the audience directly.

Vague reference → You mention "A University study" without providing specific details about which university conducted the research. This weakens your credibility as readers cannot verify the source. The phrase "A University study found that 56% of students" lacks specificity and authority.

A 2019 Oxford University study revealed that 56% of secondary school students reported feeling stressed because of homework, with many Year 7 and 8 pupils spending several hours each night on assignments.

#2 "Second, homework limits students' personal freedom and family time. After spending a full day at school, students deserve time to relax and engage in activities outside of their academic responsibilities. Homework eats into this time, leaving little room for family interaction, socializing, or pursuing hobbies. These activities are essential for a child's development and well-being. When homework takes over, students miss out on the opportunity to grow emotionally and socially. Time spent with family and friends fosters important life skills, something that homework simply cannot provide."

Strengths: Your paragraph has a clear topic sentence that establishes your argument. You effectively explain why family time and personal activities are important for development.

Generalisation → You make broad claims about homework limiting freedom without acknowledging different types or amounts of homework. Your statement "Homework eats

into this time" treats all homework as equally time-consuming without considering that some assignments might be brief or even enjoyable.

After spending seven hours at school, students need time for themselves and their families. When Miss Johnson assigned just 20 minutes of daily reading instead of worksheets, her Year 6 pupils reported having more quality time with family while still improving their literacy skills.

#3 "Finally, homework does not significantly improve learning outcomes. While it is intended to reinforce what was taught in school, research shows that the benefits of homework are limited, especially when students are given too much. A study by the National Education Association found that homework has minimal positive effects on younger students, and its benefits start to diminish as the amount increases. Instead of improving learning, excessive homework can lead to burnout and disengagement. Students might simply complete assignments to get them out of the way, rather than absorbing the material."

Strengths: Your argument is structured logically with clear reasoning. You thoughtfully explain the connection between excessive homework and decreased effectiveness.

Counterargument absence → You do not acknowledge or address opposing viewpoints that support homework's benefits in certain contexts. Without addressing how homework might sometimes be useful, your argument appears one-sided and fails to convince readers who believe homework has value.

While traditional homework often fails to improve learning outcomes for primary pupils, I recognise that certain types of home activities can be beneficial. However, replacing worksheets with family cooking projects that apply maths skills or neighbourhood explorations that teach science would better serve children's educational needs without causing burnout.

■ Your persuasive piece presents a compelling case against homework, but needs more specific examples to strengthen your arguments. When you write "homework is a major source of stress," try adding real-life scenarios that readers can picture. You could mention a specific student's experience or describe how family dinners are interrupted by homework pressures. Your second paragraph about personal freedom would benefit from examples of activities children miss out on, such as music lessons or football practice. Also, consider adding opposing viewpoints in your third paragraph about learning outcomes. By acknowledging that some types of homework might be useful and then

explaining why your position is still stronger, your argument becomes more convincing. Try connecting your ideas more clearly between paragraphs with phrases like "Not only does homework cause stress, but it also limits family time." Your conclusion could be stronger by suggesting specific alternatives to traditional homework that would still support learning. Remember to vary your sentence lengths to make your writing more engaging and impactful.

Score: 41/50

Section 2:

Imagine a world where students come home from school and aren't burdened by hours of homework. Instead, they have time to relax, engage in hobbies, and spend time with their families. This scenario could be a reality if homework were banned. Homework should be banned because it causes unnecessary stress and anxiety, limits personal freedom and family time, and does not significantly improve learning outcomes.

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National Education Association found that homework has minimal positive effects on younger students, and its benefits start to diminish as the amount increases. ~~Instead of improving learning, excessive homework can lead to burnout and disengagement.~~ [Rather than enhancing learning, excessive homework often leads to burnout and disengagement.] Students might simply complete assignments to get them out of the way, rather than absorbing the material.

In conclusion, banning homework would lead to a healthier, more balanced lifestyle for students. By eliminating homework, we could reduce stress, give students more time for personal development, and focus on learning that truly benefits their growth. It's time to rethink the role of homework in education and give students the freedom to thrive without the burden of unnecessary assignments. Let's ban homework and create a better learning environment for everyone.