

Section 1:

#1 "Imagine if your phone had to keep running all day, never allowed to rest, recharge, or even cool down. Eventually, it would freeze, overheat, or shut down completely. Now imagine that phone is your brain — and that's exactly what daily homework does."

Strengths: Your opening analogy effectively compares the brain to something familiar (a phone) that needs rest. Your use of emotive language with "freeze, overheat, or shut down" creates a strong visual impact.

Weaknesses: Oversimplification → The comparison between brains and phones doesn't fully address how learning actually works. While phones simply drain battery, brains consolidate information during rest periods in complex ways. "That's exactly what daily homework does" makes an absolute claim without acknowledging different homework types or amounts.

Exemplar: ***"Just as your phone needs time to recharge after constant use, your brain requires downtime to process what you've learned. When overwhelmed with daily homework, many students experience mental exhaustion that prevents true learning."***

#2 "If school is the gym for your brain, then classes are the heavy lifting sessions — solving problems, absorbing new information, enduring lectures. But even the most elite athletes take rest days. Why? Because recovery builds strength. Without downtime, muscles break down. The same applies to minds."

Strengths: Your extended metaphor of school as a mental gym works well to explain the concept of mental fatigue. The comparison to elite athletes adds credibility to your argument for mental rest.

Weaknesses: Incomplete reasoning → While you explain that athletes need rest, you don't fully connect this to different types of homework or explain how classroom work differs from homework activities. The phrase "enduring lectures" has a negative tone that weakens your argument by suggesting all classroom learning is unpleasant.

Exemplar: ***"School provides structured brain training through problem-solving and active learning, similar to how athletes build strength at the gym. Just as these athletes need scheduled recovery days to grow stronger, students need time away from academic exercises to strengthen neural connections and deepen understanding."***

#3 "Consider the brain as a garden. School hours are when the soil is tilled, seeds planted, and water poured in. But growth doesn't happen through constant digging. Growth needs sunlight, space, and stillness. Too much homework is like overwatering — it drowns potential."

Strengths: Your garden metaphor creates a beautiful visual representation of learning. Your writing flows naturally with short, impactful sentences that emphasize key points.

Weaknesses: Vague conclusion → While the metaphor is lovely, you don't clearly explain what "sunlight, space, and stillness" represent in real learning terms. The "overwatering" comparison needs specific examples of how homework can be counterproductive in certain situations.

Exemplar: ***"Think of your brain as a garden where school plants seeds of knowledge. Just as gardens need the right balance of care to flourish, your mind needs time to process information naturally. Too much homework can overwhelm this process, like excessive watering that prevents roots from growing strong and deep."***

■ Your persuasive essay has a compelling central argument and creative metaphors that help readers understand your position. However, your piece would be more convincing if you provided specific examples of how optional homework might work in practice. For instance, you could describe a classroom where students choose between different homework options based on their learning needs. Also, when you mention Finland's education system, you could add a brief explanation of how their approach differs from traditional homework models. Additionally, your essay would benefit from addressing potential concerns parents and teachers might have about optional homework. You might want to explain how teachers could still monitor progress and ensure students are meeting learning goals. Your conclusion could be strengthened by suggesting a gradual implementation plan rather than an immediate switch to optional homework. Try revising paragraphs 4 and 8 to include more specific details about how optional homework supports different learning styles.

Overall Score: 45/50

Section 2:

Why Homework Should Be Optional: Let the Brain Breathe

#1 Imagine if your phone had to keep running all day, never allowed to rest, recharge, or even cool down. Eventually, it would freeze, overheat, or shut down completely. Now imagine that phone is your brain — and that's exactly what daily homework does.

For decades, the argument has been the same: homework reinforces learning, teaches discipline, and prepares students for the "real world." But what if those ideas are as outdated as floppy disks?

#2 If school is the gym for your brain, then classes are the heavy lifting sessions — solving problems, absorbing new information, enduring lectures. But even the most elite

athletes take rest days. Why? Because recovery builds strength. Without downtime, muscles break down. The same applies to minds.

Homework overload is the mental equivalent of working out the same muscle every day — no recovery, no growth. Optional homework lets students choose when they're ready to engage more, just like how athletes pick extra training sessions based on their capacity. Choice builds real discipline.

Children are born with wild, beautiful imaginations — but somewhere between worksheets and late-night algebra, that magic dims. When every hour is spent grinding through repetitive tasks, there's no room left for play, daydreaming, or creative thinking.

Ironically, the skills most needed in today's world — innovation, problem-solving, emotional intelligence — are developed outside the worksheet bubble. Optional homework would free up time for hobbies, reading for pleasure, exploring curiosity — the true nutrients of a rich mind.

Here's an unexpected truth: more homework doesn't mean more success. In countries like Finland, students have less homework but higher academic outcomes. Why? Because quality beats quantity.

Optional homework respects the fact that not all students learn the same way. Some thrive with extra practice, others need reflection. A flexible approach builds intrinsic motivation — the most powerful engine for long-term learning.

#3 Consider the brain as a garden. School hours are when the soil is tilled, seeds planted, and water poured in. But growth doesn't happen through constant digging. Growth needs sunlight, space, and stillness. Too much homework is like overwatering — it drowns potential.

By making homework optional, we allow each garden to grow in its own way, with its own rhythm. And that's how you get the most vibrant blooms.

We don't need to abolish homework. We need to reimagine it. Give students the power to choose — to reflect, rest, or dive deeper when they're ready. Optional homework isn't a free pass. It's a smarter, more human-centered way to learn.

Let's stop treating students like machines. Let their brains breathe, grow, and bloom.