

# Section 1

## #1: Opening paragraph

- **Strengths:** Your piece introduces the homework debate clearly and acknowledges multiple perspectives (educators, families, and students). You've also effectively signalled your position early by mentioning a "compelling argument for homework."
- **Weakness:** Unclear reasoning → Your opening presents conflicting ideas without smooth connection. You mention students wanting "weekends to be free of learning" but then immediately pivot to defending homework without addressing this concern properly. The phrase "homework carries into their precious weekend time" followed by "Even if homework carries into weekends" creates repetition that weakens your argument's flow.
- **Exemplar:** *Whilst many students argue that homework infringes upon their valuable weekend time, a compelling case exists for its continuation. Weekend assignments enable students to utilise their time productively whilst developing skills beyond the school day, and can alleviate pressure during busier weekdays.*

## #2: Second paragraph

- **Strengths:** You've identified a genuine educational benefit—that homework allows students to work at their own pace. Your point about "quiet time away from distraction" helping students process complex concepts shows good understanding of learning processes.
- **Weakness:** Vague language diminishes impact → Phrases like "engaging with homework formally or informally" and "take as long as they can or like to think" lack precision and weaken your argument. The statement "it fosters a feeling of success" appears early but isn't developed or explained, leaving readers uncertain about *how* homework creates this feeling.
- **Exemplar:** *Homework enables students to consolidate their learning at their own pace. When classroom lessons move quickly, some students struggle to grasp concepts fully. Through independent practice at home, students can revisit challenging material, work through problems methodically, and build confidence before the next lesson.*

### #3: Fourth paragraph

- *Strengths:* You recognise the importance of time management skills and link homework to broader life skills. Your acknowledgement that students balance "classes, sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities" shows awareness of students' busy lives.
- *Weakness:* Contradictory logic → You state that a "full schedule...can create a stressful environment" but then claim "assigning homework to students will provide them with an opportunity" to manage this stress. This contradicts itself—adding homework to an already stressful schedule doesn't automatically reduce stress. The phrase "students can complete each assignment with a more relaxed and focused mind" directly conflicts with your earlier acknowledgement of stress.
- *Exemplar:* **Regular homework assignments throughout the week teach students essential time management skills. By spreading tasks across several days rather than cramming before deadlines, students learn to organise their workload efficiently and balance academic responsibilities with extracurricular commitments.**

■ Your piece demonstrates a solid understanding of homework's benefits, but the arguments need sharper development and clearer logic. Several points contradict each other (particularly around stress and workload), which undermines your persuasiveness. Additionally, you should strengthen your reasoning by explaining *how* homework achieves the benefits you claim—for instance, rather than simply stating homework "fosters success," explain the specific process through which this occurs. Also, your third paragraph introduces the stress debate but doesn't adequately address counterarguments, leaving your position vulnerable. Consider reorganising your points so each paragraph focuses on one clear benefit with supporting evidence and examples.

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Score: 42/50

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## Section 2:

### Should Students Have Homework?

The relevance of homework for students has been thoroughly debated among educators, families, and students themselves. Many students believe that homework ~~carries [encroaches]~~ into their precious weekend time. Additionally, many students want weekends to be free of learning, but there is a ~~good~~ compelling argument for homework. ~~Even if homework carries into weekends, the weekend homework allows students to utilise their time wisely while developing capacities beyond a school day. And can also relieve some of the pressure to keep up with homework during a busy school week. [Even if homework extends into weekends, it allows students to utilise their time wisely whilst developing capacities~~

**beyond the school day, and can also relieve some of the pressure to keep up with homework during a busy school week.] #1**

Homework does not just have value, it [**; it**] fosters a feeling of success and assists students in consolidating their learning and understanding of the content of lessons. Furthermore, lessons have a varied pace and, at times, they can be quite rapid, which means that not all students are able to understand and apply concepts and ideas to what happens in the school environment **[within the school environment]**. When students ~~take advantage of engaging [engage]~~ with homework ~~formally or informally~~ after school hours, it allows them to ~~go through [work through]~~ the work at their own pace, take as long as they ~~can or like [need]~~ to think, and engage with problems and ideas. Quiet time away from distraction helps students think through ~~concepts and learning that are [concepts that are]~~ more complex and to reflect on ~~things [areas]~~ they may want to continue to work on for future support or develop confidence. Students return to school demonstrating more confidence and readiness for the lesson that is next to unfold. **#2**

There are many ongoing discussions about the relationship between homework and academic stress or anxiety; however, homework also has numerous advantages such as helping students practise and review what they have learned in the classroom, as well as developing time management skills and responsibility. Through homework, students review and practise what they have learned after school. This allows students to retain what they learned in the classroom and reinforce their knowledge.

As students are assigned homework throughout the week, they will be more likely to use their time efficiently by developing time management skills and discipline. A full schedule of classes, sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities can create a stressful environment for many students; therefore, assigning homework to students will provide them with an opportunity to practise what they have learned. Because homework assignments have a set schedule, students can complete each assignment with a more relaxed and focused mind, allowing for less stress when completing homework. Additionally, having the same amount of homework and other assignments distributed throughout the week helps promote a balance between life and school, ultimately leading to a student's success in both life and in school. **#3**

Another benefit of homework is the way it provides students with a glimpse of what they may be facing in terms of workload when they advance to higher grades. Homework also creates an understanding for students of what their responsibilities will be outside of the classroom, as well as developing persistence and independence due to the amount of homework they will be expected to complete.

In general, I believe students should have homework because it reinforces learning, balances the work of homework over the weekdays, and builds specific components of independence that transfer into a successful learning experience that they can use in their next year.