

Homework and Practice

Research indicates 4 Key Points:

1) **The more homework students do, the better their achievement.** (Marzano, 2001, p. 63)

- Minutes of homework: ten times the grade level.
- ...for about every 30 minutes of “additional” homework a student does per night, his or her overall grade point average increases about half a point... (Marzano, 2001, p. 63)

2) **Parent involvement in homework should be kept to a minimum.** (Marzano, 2001, p. 63)

- Many studies show minimal and even somewhat negative effects when parents are asked to help students with homework. (Marzano, 2001, p. 63)

3) **The purpose of homework should be identified and articulated. Homework should be commented upon.**

- Two common purposes for homework are (1) practice and (2) preparation or elaboration
Practicing a skill with which a student is unfamiliar is not only inefficient, but might also serve to habituate errors or misconceptions

4) **When learning a skill, students need a great deal of practice in order to achieve mastery.**

- Learning new content does not happen quickly. It requires practice spread out over time.

Homework can be used as

- 1) an opportunity to **practice skills**,
- 2) **to prepare** for a new topic, or **to elaborate** on introduced material