The Main Idea Strategy: Student Practice Lessons

Name

Date

Passage #16

**Do I Have to Do Homework?**

I bet you do not like hearing this: “Today’s homework is…” You might think that only really mean teachers give homework. It’s not true. Believe it or not, teachers do not give homework to be mean. Homework does take up some of your free time, but it helps you to learn and to remember what you learn. So stop complaining!

In elementary school, kids only have a little bit of homework. It is for certain reasons. For example, if you learned how to add during the school day, your homework might be a worksheet to compute some addition problems. Another common type of homework in elementary school is reading. In school, your teacher may have had your class read aloud. Then, at home, your parents would listen to you read.

By high school, homework gets more difficult and is a little different. Classes are more demanding, so teachers may give various types of homework. If you read a chapter of a new book during the day, your homework might be to read the next chapter, understand it, and be able to write and talk about it. In math, you may have to try problems from a chapter you have not started yet. You have to learn more independently, but you still practice some things you learned in school.

College presents the next challenging level of homework. In college, most people are only in class for fifteen to twenty hours per week. That is like about two or three days of elementary or high school! Usually, though, college students have around fifteen to twenty hours of homework each week. For many college classes, you have to read books on your own. Then, your professor may lecture about material not even in your book. For homework, you might then get a week or two to write essays about what you read for homework and discussed in class. In college, professors do not remind you everyday to do your homework.

When you graduate from school, you must start work. After work, people usually come home and do a variety of things. Most of the time, it may include things like cooking, washing dishes, and other things like doing the laundry. People also have to take care of their children, if they have any. People have to pay bills and balance their checkbook. These tasks may have nothing to do with school or work, but they must be done. These chores are a part of everyday life, but could be called the next type of homework.

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