

Should homework be banned?

Lesson plan for using arguments to persuade others

Suggested length: 1-2 class periods (45-55 minutes each)

Lesson components:

- Opener (5 minutes)
- Activity
 - Part A: Explore the Kialo Edu discussion (partial class period)
 - Part B: Contribute to the Kialo Edu discussion and persuade classmates (1 class period)
- Optional closer and filling out the Exit Ticket (15 minutes)

Assessment

Students will be assessed on their participation in the discussion and their completion of an Exit Ticket.

Opener (5 minutes)

1. Spark student interest by posing one or both of the following questions. Encourage students to share their answers with the whole class.
 - a. What is the purpose of homework?
 - b. What is your earliest memory of doing homework?

Activity

Part A: Explore the Kialo Edu discussion (partial class period)

1. Have students independently explore the discussion.
2. Once students are finished, ask those who are in favor of banning homework to go to one side of the room and those who are against it to move to the opposite side of the room.

Part B: Contribute to the Kialo Edu discussion and persuade classmates (1 class period)

1. Divide students into groups of 4-5 students. Ensure that there is a diversity of opinions in each group.

TIP: If there is an uneven number of students for and against the thesis, you may assign some students to argue for a particular side.

2. Assign each group their own clone of the Kialo Edu discussion. Direct each student to add 3-4 claims to the discussion with examples from their own experience. For example, under the claim, "Homework gives students the opportunity to gain independence," students can add a con claim such as "Sometimes homework is frustrating, especially when I get stuck."

TIP: You can keep track of how many claims each student has added by pressing the ☰ button in the top-left of the discussion and looking at the "Tasks" tab.

3. Direct students to take turns sharing their conclusions with the group and trying to convince other group members.

Optional closer and filling out the Exit Ticket (15 minutes)

1. Once more, ask the students to go to one side of the room if they agree with banning homework and to the other side if they are against it.
2. Discuss with the class: "Has anybody switched sides? If so, why?"
3. Have students fill out the Exit Ticket individually before they leave class.