

Though the lowest mark I ever got in math is 96/100, My math teacher says he will lower my grades because I don't do homework. What should I do?

He said it's because otherwise, It would be unfair to other students who study hard. So what? Life is not fair! To me, high school math is like counting to 10. I don't care if it's a challenge to them, why do I have to waste my time writing stuff while I can do something useful? Is it fair to me?

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33 Answers



Thomas Dalton

2.7k Views

It depends on whether the grades your teacher gives you actually count for anything. If all that matters once you leave school is your exam results (which is how it works in the UK - teacher's assessments are purely to gauge progress and don't mean a thing, it is your exam results that get you into further education and employment) feel free to ignore the threats and concentrate on learning in whatever way works for you. If the grades matter then, unfortunately, you have no choice but to do the homework.

Written Dec 29 • View Upvotes

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Ryan Burnette, Poor College Student, Future High School Director of Bands

44.6k Views • Upvoted by Carlos Matias La Borde, has an A.S. and B.S. Degree in Computer & Information Science.

Ryan is a Most Viewed Writer in The High School Experience.

Let me tell you a story.

A long time ago, but not really, it was more like maybe eight years ago, a devilishly handsome and VERY cool kid came along. Middle school, the arena for champions! This kid was ready. He stepped into his classes like, "Yo, let's get this started, I'm a bigshot and I can do what I want, bruh."

It was about a month into 6th grade math, when his teacher realized he wasn't doing much of the homework. The teacher confronted the kid, was like, "Hey. What's up, why aren't you doing your work?"

"Oh, you know, I've just been too busy," the kid lied.

"Busy with what?" his teacher said.

"Uh... Well, family stuff." Compelling enough excuse.

"Oh, okay. Well, be sure you get it done soon."

Oh... well, family stuff. Compelling enough excuse.

"Oh, okay. Well, be sure you get it done soon."

"Alright," the kid replied, returning to his book. Dean Koontz, "Watchers." He'd ran out of library books in elementary school, he had to bring his grandma's books from home.

Fast forward to the 9th grade. Kid was older and spent the whole year and the year before doing math competitions and basically gorged on math until he decided to call it quits. But that came later; for now, the kid was getting his report card at the end of the year. In Algebra 2, the kid had gotten a B.

He was mildly distraught, irritated by the slight damper on his otherwise flawless grades. But he'd earned that B; for all his extra credit and perfect test scores, he'd done maybe a third of the homework.

10th-12th grade, this kid didn't do any of his math homework, and barely skated by through having a teacher who didn't grade homework, then no math class, then a teacher whose class he "formally skipped" nearly every day, by telling, not asking, his teacher that he had more important things to do, and had to go do them.

That was AP Calculus, and the kid passed with a strong C.

Fast forward again, now the kid's in college, and suddenly this guy's got oodles and oodles of homework! Worse yet, most of the homework is actually a *challenge*, unlike before, and it's twice as vital to success in classes that actually *matter* now! All except for one class, one dreadful, awful, class, that our young protagonist already knows all the answers to. Aside from clashes with the professor based on her teaching style and personality, the kid eventually treats that class as he did his math classes, skipping several days (always leaving a halfway excuse), and doing none of the homework. Finally, it all built up to the teacher telling him that he *would* fail the class, because he did none of the work and missed so many days.

The guy, not used to doing so much utterly trite and meaningless homework, stayed up until 4 in the morning, waking up at 7 sharp (to not miss that class he'd been skipping) to finish the make-up work. *Sixteen pages of make-up work*. Sixteen grueling, awful, horridly dull and tedious pages. Overall? About 30 items per page, so about *480 parts total*. And considering the complexity of the tasks (it was music theory, he was identifying chords and correcting voice-leading and the like), it was all he could take to not throw his textbook out the window and be done with it all.

And after all that toil and struggle, he finally got it done and turned it in. Passed the class with a C, on a much more lenient point scale than the largely-outdated 7 point scale his high school had used; in those terms, his grade would have been two points shy of a high F.

Next semester, that kid has his first college math class, and has already accepted his fate—an awful amount of easy math that he's already learned, but that, like a band-aid, he has to rip out of the way, and just get it over with. Homework and all.

If you haven't figured it out by now, and I'm positive you have, you sound like a smart kid, I was, and am, that kid. I was cocky as all Hell, thought that I didn't need to do the homework just because I already knew all of the material, and for that, I've had to fight my

If you haven't figured it out by now, and I'm positive you have, you sound like a smart kid, I was, and am, that kid. I was cocky as all Hell, thought that I didn't need to do the homework, just because I already knew all of the material, and for that, I've had to fight my way through the harsh reality of college-level homework, which is far different from high school work.

You should think yourself lucky; you hit that realization much earlier than I did (at least, your question gives off the feel of a high school student), and that means you still have plenty of time to change your ways and accept that yeah, homework sucks. It's awful and nobody wants to deal with it. But it's also a solid measure of your will and determination; if you can wade through seas of trigonometry, and formulas, and integrals, and all those letters that ruined the sanctity of numbers by making math even more tiresome to plow through, then you can do pretty much anything.

If I could do it, you can do it; and besides, there's always a second option that I didn't realize until that Music Theory course (albeit, she rejected my idea, on grounds that were genuinely unfair and ungrounded, which the actual giving of homework is not.)

You can always ask your teacher for *more* homework. Homework on your level. I guarantee you that your teacher will love that idea, because it means getting to do what he went to school to do- teach! While not true of all teachers, teachers in general want to educate students and watch them grow. If your homework can't do that, I'm sure he wouldn't mind finding you harder homework. In 8th grade, my Algebra 1 teacher saw that I was bored, and put me to work on a laptop, researching advanced matrices and Precalculus. All because I'd finished the workbook, two months into the class.

And to help your grade, now, ask for all of the homework assignments you didn't do. Do them. Turn them in, and apologize for thinking yourself to be a special snowflake who is exempt from rules.

You aren't alone in that regard. Sometimes we're all guilty of that way of thinking.

And just remember that in life, we all have to do things we don't want to do. Even math homework. Best of luck.

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Oliver Winters, History and economics student at Oxford university. Interested in historical,...

1.2k Views

I personally sympathise a great deal with you. I've often felt the same way with essay based subjects (History especially) and I often just didn't really do class work (Homework was a way for me to 'show off' so to speak). Therefore I can suggest that you try and confront the issue head on.

Firstilt, see if you can persuade yourself that the homework is worth doing by making it a challenge. For example, set yourself a time limit, or do it without a textbook/calculator or whatever. Make sure you tell your teacher straight up what you're doing as well. That way he'll see that you are making an effort. If the homework really is just too boring/easy, then

whatever. Make sure you tell your teacher straight up what you're doing as well. That way he'll see that you are making an effort. If the homework really is just too boring/easy, then see if you can replace it with something more up to your standard. Either ask your teacher to set you some extension work, or better yet, seek out your own new exploration of mathematical ideas. I assume you enjoy maths, so perhaps Google a new concept, or watch an online lecture by a renowned mathematician. I know this may sound dull, and trust me, I was/am so lazy when it comes to things like this, but often it can be surprisingly enjoyable.

The other thing you need to do is confront your teacher. Tell him that it is unfair for him to judge you via different standards to the rest of your peers. Fine, if your grade is calculated on homework scored as well, and by not doing it you get 0%, then you have no choice. But otherwise, point out that academia at school level is essentially meritocratic and therefore you should be judged purely on results that equate you with your peers. One final suggestion would be to have him give you an 'effort grade' as well as an academic one. My school employs a method of grading in reports by which you have a solely academic grade based on predicted exam results from A*-E and an effort system of 1-4, to show how hard you worked IN RELATION to your academic grade. This way, you'll be given the correct high achieving academic grade because you are naturally talented but your teacher can express his feelings over your work ethic as well.

Good Luck!

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Drew Henry, Graduate Student

891 Views

You should do the homework. I agree with you- the purpose of homework is to help you learn the material and if you can learn it without homework, I don't think you should be penalized for not doing the homework (homework should only be able to help your grade, not hurt it, in my opinion); grades are traditionally given to gauge performance, not effort, so penalizing a high performing student for lack of effort would be unfair. However, if it says in the syllabus that homework is $x\%$ of your grade and you don't do the homework, then expect your grade to be $x\%$ lower if you don't do the homework. You could try to argue a case for yourself, but I doubt that you will win that fight. If, however, your teacher is threatening to lower your grade arbitrarily (i.e. not based on the criteria outlined in the syllabus), then you have grounds to file a complaint with your principle/dean/etc.

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Alan Yee

407 Views

I am going to disagree with [Ryan Burnette](#) on asking your teacher for more homework. From my experience, it is not always a guarantee that he or she would like to do it. I remember advocating with petitions for a class of AP Calculus BC and AP Stats, and I only ever got one other schoolmate to do the AMC with me (and he was from China) which

From my experience, it is not always a guarantee that he or she would like to do it. I remember advocating with petitions for a class of AP Calculus BC and AP Stats, and I only ever got one other schoolmate to do the AMC with me (and he was from China) which meant I had to do my own funding. There is the internet now. Use it to your advantage.

For the OP, you should do the homework anyway. If high school math is as easy as counting to 10, then doing the homework should take 10 seconds. For my high school math classes, since the homework was written on the board at the beginning of lecture, I finished the homework while the teacher was teaching. I remember finishing all of my AP Calculus in a month because my teacher outlined all of the homework we had to do for the year. Look, you are going to have to play ball. There's something called the "system", and if you want to go prestigious colleges, you are going to have play ball or else your grades are going to drop. And if you don't want to do homework because it is too easy, you should try asking your school to test out of all its math classes. Or maybe try appealing by asking if you can take community college classes in math instead.

Speaking from how I specifically walked through the math sequence at my high school, I did the homework very quickly and spent most of class on MIT OCW and then the precursors to the popular MOOC platforms. Again, if the homework is very easy, then you should finish it quickly to get some free time to do what you want to do. As Paul Graham said in his essay [What You'll Wish You'd Known](#), you should treat high school like your day job. Many high school classes don't and won't mean anything to you in the present or the future, but you can't just quit or else you might hurt your future. I mean you could be like geohot who blows off his classes to do his own thing which has culminated into <http://comma.ai/> and infamously, but unless you want to walk his path or walk along a path like that, you are going to have to follow the rules. As you have said yourself, life is unfair. It might be unfair for the school to make you count to 10, but as you said, life is unfair.

Also you may want to consider the future. Do you want to explore the world of math? Will your future goal need advanced knowledge of mathematics? Or are you going to write literature or other things where you won't even need to remember anything Precalculus taught you?

If you want to explore the world of math, you should try to find online resources or adults to advance your career and knowledge in higher-levels of math. If your future goals just require you to know some but not all areas of higher-level math, I would still try to get ahead. And if you want to just do some writing or whatnot, just get a 5 on AP Calculus BC. Then you can skip out of the math requirement at most universities.

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Cynthia Ward Hemminger, Math teacher in grades 10-12 for 3 years. Computer science teacher in grades ...

596 Views

Welcome to life as an outlier.

If the class policy says that homework counts for x% of your grade, then it does. You have

If the class policy says that homework counts for x% of your grade, then it does. You have the choice to do it, or refrain from doing it and suffer the consequences.

Before you get too bent out of shape with your teacher, though, you might want to keep in mind that many, if not most, teachers are no longer allowed to set their own grading policies. In many schools, the policies are set by the department, in some they are set by the school administration, and in a few they are set by the school board.

I will take your word for it that having to do the homework is a waste of your time, and if the teacher has singled you out for this treatment, you can file a complaint. If this is a broader policy, and if you care enough to to work to change it, you will need to do some research to see who has the authority to make the change. Determine what you would want the change to look like, and be prepared to counter arguments on the alleged benefits of homework (teaching study habits, instilling discipline). Your proposal should spell out an objective means for deciding whom to exempt from the homework requirement - unless, of course, your proposal consists of eliminating homework for everyone.

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Mark Harrison, Running technology at FundingKnight

2k Views

Your teacher's explanation is rubbish, but his principle is sound...

... don't assume that, because an explanation has faulty reasoning, the conclusion has to be wrong.

Firstly, you should do the homework. Though, if you're as good as you believe, you should find it possible to finish in the class, or on the bus on the way home, and therefore have free time in the evening anyway.

Secondly, ask for extension work - ie - more challenging stuff to do.

The point to remember, however, is that most teachers won't set extension work *until you've finished the core work they set.*

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Todd Kreider, Ed. D

409 Views

It's not about fairness. This is an expectation. Meet it. If you choose not to do what is required of you, there are consequences. This is how the world works. Fairness has nothing to do with it. While my tone is harsh, take it from someone who has been there not very long ago...if you fail to meet expectations in the workplace, the damages will be

nothing to do with it. This is my only advice, take it from someone who has been there not very long ago...if you fail to meet expectations in the workplace, the damages will be worse to you than a score in math class. Good luck!

Also...ask to be placed in an upper level math class, if possible, to challenge you and tap into your gift for maths.

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Matthew Olmedo, B.S. in Chemical Engineering, Material Science Engineering, Biomolecular Enginee

233 Views

All I hear is WHINE WHINE WHINE WHINE.

So you know how to do the math but you don't want to do the math? that doesn't seem right.

I'm really good at thinking about chemical processes, i do not need to solve problems in order to be good at it. Its a waste of my time to do it.

But guess what. If i did not do the work, i do not get paid.

Seriously do the homework. It is never a waste of your time.

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Daniel Philippus, I'm in high school

307 Views

I share the sentiment--I've always been glad to have math classes that don't require you to turn in homework, as I rarely do it if I'm not required to.

However, as you said: life's not fair. Your teacher is in a position of authority (assuming you care about your grades), and therefore has the ability to order you around. So do your homework or get a bad grade.

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Jose Ortiz, Experimental Physicist and aspiring data scientist

80 Views

I was exactly in your predicament at the same age. Indeed, it ocured a few times in college as well.

If you can take this opportunity to study mathematics on your own, through books and personal explorations, you will satisfy your teacher's need for you to "work hard", and you will learn far more than you could otherwise.

personal explorations, you will satisfy your teacher's need for you to "work hard", and you will learn far more than you could otherwise.

Do not use the easiness of high school mathematics as an excuse to not work. Work, but learn things you want to learn and do not already know about. Move swiftly through precalc, trig, calculus, matrix theory, and beyond. Learn to teach yourself and you will learn more than anyone else in your highschool, and you will prove to your teachers you are not lazy.

Written Sun • View Upvotes

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Michael Burrows

236 Views

Your logic is sound. Other than kindergarten grades should measure the student's understanding of a subject. However, life is not fair and the teacher makes the rules so do the homework.

Written Dec 29

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Julian Mintzis, Education and Business Professional. Currently living and working in China fo...

189 Views

I have a mixed, slightly contradictory opinion of a different type of real life example and the reality of the situation.

Let us take a different approach to this situation and put it into a business context. You are an adult and work for a company. You work for the head of the company. He or she assigns you tasks. You must do all of them to the best of your ability and you cannot "pick and choose" the task you prefer, do well at, or these kinds of things. The boss also will not accept a number of excuses for missing work.

What happens if you do not finish all of your work or do not complete all of it? A number of possible consequences depending -- perhaps a warning, salary cut, being asked to leave the company, etc. If your position is easily replacable by someone else this is more of an issue to you, and if there is currently high unemployment it will be more difficult for you to find another job.

In the reality of the situation, I agree with Thomas Dalton, it depends if the course counts toward anything or not, and how significant the lowering of your grade affects your future; however, your grades will only be important to your immediate future after you finish that course of study (high school, university etc) once you're far enough out of that time, the grades will not make much difference.

On the other hand, it depends on your teacher, he or she may be trying to teach you a more important lesson and have a harder goal for you to learn. With this said, the reality is that education and the system is not for everyone. We have seen some of the most successful

important lesson and have a harder goal for you to learn. With this said, the reality is that education and the system is not for everyone. We have seen some of the most successful people not do well in their studies as well.

I am an education and business professional that has lived in China for more than the past six years. The company that I run handles corporate, operational, and strategic solutions for entrepreneurs and companies relating to doing business in China, The US, and Europe.

Written Sat

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Bojan Danko

163 Views

You do your homework. If doing homework is part of the grade then you definitely do your homework. Take it as building some work habits, which you'll need if you want to study something like math or informatics.

I don't like the "unfair to others" part. I think it's bullshit and a weak argument for anything. Life is simply not fair. It's also not fair that I have something to eat while many people don't. Should I starve for that reason?

So yeah, do your homework. If you're good, you'll do it in no time + work habits.

Written Thu • View Upvotes

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Alex Griessel, Been through it.

226 Views

If your teacher did not outline in your syllabus that lack of doing homework will penalize your grade, then he is incorrect and you may report him. If, however, homework is said to be 'required', then you may assume that some measures are in place to enforce that requirement. However, he should not be able to lower your grades for not doing homework BEFORE he told you the consequences- he should be giving you advance notice and allowing you a chance to make up for the mistake.

Several others here say you are whining. This is not so, you are simply ambitious and capable enough to stand up for yourself (assuming you will follow through with an action). This is not a bad thing, so don't be discouraged.

However, I suggest doing the homework anyway, irrelevant on your knowledge or understanding of the topic, because in the future, no matter your position, you will be stuck with a lot of menial, simple work that is time-consuming and not interesting. Best get used to it now.

The best idea is to work it into your schedule- do it in between classes, while you're waiting for you teacher, after a test, etc. This will also help you plan things out in the long run.

Cheers!

for you teacher, after a test, etc. This will also help you plan things out in the long run.

Cheers!

Written Dec 29

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Arron Stratton

201 Views

I say quit being so full of yourself. Do the work.

One day you'll be working for someone. You might well be a lot smarter than that person. But they make the rules. And if you don't follow them you'll be in more trouble than not doing your homework. You might think what they're telling you to do is stupid or pointless. But you'll still have to do it. Just because you're good at something, doesn't mean you have the right to some special privilege. Maybe later in life. But not at school. You don't get to decide you shouldn't do the same amount of work as your peers just because you find it easy.

It most likely isn't an unreasonable amount of homework. It might take your classmates an hour. If it's so easy for you then you should be able to do it in less time. Get it done and stop thinking your intelligence gives you some sort of special status.

Written Sun • View Upvotes

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Jessica Margolin, Fndn Educ R&D; Fremont Educ Fndn; educ software marketing; parent.

347 Views

Of course it's bogus. However, if he handed out a syllabus, and the syllabus said you had to do a thing, you have to do it in order to get what you want (an "A") unless he waives it for you.

I had EXACTLY this happen to me when I was a kid. I had no idea. The misogynistic creepazoid who was my teacher could've warned me at any time during the semester and I would've (begrudgingly) done the work -- it would've taken me five minutes -- but I was a transfer student, and I was in therapy every morning before his class, and I regularly fell asleep in class because I was repeating what I'd just done in a previous school. I was 14 and didn't realize this was what this school expected.

I had 105% in the class (got the extra credit on the exams) but never did any homework. So I received a B- and that was the first time I heard that I was doing anything wrong.

He was gleeful.

Anyway. Do the homework or negotiate something else -- maybe you could do a project that was interesting to you in lieu of the homework?

Written Dec 29

What was interesting to you in neu or the homework?

Written Dec 29

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Anonymous

348 Views

Oh man, you are walking in my shoes a decade ago. Let me tell you about my experience before I answer your question.

I permanently stopped doing homework starting in 10th grade. I had been doing it off and on since sixth, just enough to remain passing, but I decided in 10th that I was doing everyone involved a disservice by making them think that it mattered at all. So I stopped completely. I was in a position where the only credits I still needed to get my high school diploma were three history/government, three english and two sciences, as I had already completed the requirements for everything else, so most classes it didn't matter if I passed or not, but even the ones I did need, I still did not do homework.

I also loaded my schedule with as many AP classes as were available at my school. I had 5 AP classes my junior year and 6 AP classes my senior year, including AP Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Latin Prose, AP Latin Poetry (I mention these ones specifically because they were fun, the rest were a complete joke easy). Even in these classes I did no homework. I did no studying. Some of them I didn't even do classwork, if I didn't like the teacher. At the end of my high school career I had passed all of my AP exams with the highest score from each of my classes. In AP Latin Prose and Poetry, I was the ONLY person to pass the AP exams (these were the hardest exams by far). I took my SATs and scored a 1510/1600, no studying, no review, no stress. I loved these tests. This was my chance to prove The Point, and prove it I did. The Point was all that mattered to me.

While passing all these tests, I failed about 10 classes in that time period. I failed AP English 11, and AP English 12 (even while scoring the highest in the class on the AP tests), and Chemistry. I needed those to graduate, so I had to take them in summer school. Summer school made me laugh at how screwed up the system is. I spent 2 weeks in a class with people who were in there because they couldn't even read. Zero homework. I got a 100 in the classes. I wished I could just do summer school year round. I almost failed AP US History (again, after destroying the AP test), but was able to get my teacher to let me do a ridiculously large project to get a passing grade. One class, Advanced Computer Information Systems, I needed a 4% during my last 9 week period in order to pass the class. I did zero work and failed that class. AP Stats and AP Latin Prose/Poetry I only passed by the graces of my teachers acknowledging that I clearly knew the material, and giving me the minimum passing grade for the class.

Some teachers liked me a lot, and we'd joke about how I wasn't going to do the work. Some teachers quite clearly hated me. These were the teachers I drilled The Point into as hard as possible as retribution. My Advanced Physics class in 12th grade, I'd raise my hand instantly to answer every single question that was asked in class, and I would be ignored every single time. This made me smile. I remember talking to my physics teacher at the end of the year, saying that I wondered if my AP English 12 teacher would pass me, since she knew I knew everything. He replied that he knew I knew everything in his class.

ignored every single time. This made me smile. I remember talking to my physics teacher at the end of the year, saying that I wondered if my AP English 12 teacher would pass me, since she knew I knew everything. He replied that he knew I knew everything in his class, and he was still going to fail me. I needed his class to get an Advanced Diploma instead of the regular one. I didn't care. I laughed.

Here's the part where I am supposed to tell you how screwed I was in college. Sorry, can't do that. College was awesome. Most classes had zero or little homework, mostly just labs. I loved it. I still did no homework, except group projects, still did no studying, and I did excellently. I was in an unorthodox computer science related school, and it was one of the best times of my life.

Here's the part now where I am supposed to tell you about how I was screwed in the real world, at an actual job. Sorry....still can't do that. In my professional career (software developer), I have become highly regarded by everyone I work with as very sharp, will pick things up very quickly and can get anything done. I am making more money than I ever imagined I would be able to make.

So what were the consequences? Were there none? Sadly, now is where I have to burst the bubble. Most of the consequences for me have been theoretical, but they exist. First off, I have no experience with trying my hardest. On anything. Ever. I am very afraid of failure, because I have never experienced it. Sure, I "failed" a bunch of classes in high school, but I put zero effort into that, and it was a meaningless grade anyway, since I knew the material. I am talking about a real failure. I have many ideas that I would like to pursue independently, but I am afraid that I might fail, and I don't know how I would even deal with that. In a similar vein, I also don't know how to struggle. I am so used to picking things up immediately, that the second I don't pick something up immediately, I get very angry and frustrated, and immediately stop putting effort into it. There have been times that I wanted to learn something on my own, but at the first stumbling block, I just decide it's not worth it. Luckily, I still pick up most things instantly or very quickly without effort, but I fear that one day in my professional career I will have to struggle with something, and I just have no idea how to do it. The other consequence is the one I am most afraid of. I am afraid that it has become too much of a habit of me to not put forth a lot of effort into things. This changes with my motivation and my mood. Sometimes, I can work furiously on something and turn it around incredibly quickly, or have it be amazing. This is where my reputation comes from. But I find that motivation drifting further and further away some days. Sometimes it takes me much longer to get something done than it should, and everyone is still happy with it, because most other people on my team couldn't do it even that quickly/well. But I feel like an impostor when I do that. I hate it, but I can't help myself.

Here's the kicker though. None of this stuff would change just by doing homework alone. Doing homework in classes where you don't need it only teaches you how to eat shit, which can be helpful, since many jobs have shit eating tasks (like tracking time). But this isn't really going to help with the problems that I have stated. You need to find something that takes real effort for you to learn. Do some independent study, set goals for yourself, not just goals you think you can make, but also goals that you think that are out of reach. Study and strive to meet these goals, get practice putting in 100% effort. The advent of high speed internet has been a game changer as far as self study goes. I grew up in the

Study and strive to meet these goals, get practice putting in 100% effort. The advent of high speed internet has been a game changer as far as self study goes. I grew up in the sticks with dial-up internet that my parents wouldn't let me use more than an hour each week (because it tied up our only phone line). I wish I had the opportunity to grow up with the internet of today, there is so much opportunity. Just make sure you try your hardest at something, ANYTHING, just so you know you can.

As far as the practicality of doing homework just for grades in high school, that's a decision you have to make. Do you want to go to a college that cares about your high school GPA? I didn't, but I went to an unorthodox school. The only other question is that if your ego will allow you to do it. My ego didn't.

Written Sun • View Upvotes

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Steve Knudsen, physicist

25 Views

Simple answer: Because you didn't get 100/100. The only way a teacher can be sure you are worth passing is if you do all the work, or if you get perfect scores on all written and verbal work. That's math. And that's teaching.

Written Sun

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Nick Nuzzo

189 Views

Maybe it's because the homework is a part of the grade... Most schools require you do the homework to get credit in the class. I understand how you feel. I could go to the back of my algebra book and do lessons from like chapter 11 and 12 at the beginning of the year. But the homework was ALWAYS a part of the grade so I had to do it otherwise I'd suffer the consequences.

Written Dec 29

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John Stockwell

77 Views

Math class is not about getting the right answer on a few problems, it is about training your brain to think in an orderly fashion.

As to what you should do? Do all of the homework assignments, turn them in, apologize for being an ass.

Why? Because it would be better for you to change to being more conscientious now, than to be hit hard with reality in the future, when the really tough stuff starts.

to be hit hard with reality in the future, when the really tough stuff starts.

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Stephen Stefanini, High School Math Teacher

104 Views

I am a math teacher.

I agree with you it is a bad situation for you. However, part of the meaning of a high school diploma is "Work Ethic." It turns out that you either don't have the ethic required for an "A," or you don't know how to work the system to make it look like you do. ;)

Grades and their meaning:

A: someone who does everything and understands everything

B: someone who makes mistakes, OR doesn't do what they are agreed to

C: someone who makes mistakes AND doesn't do what they agreed to

D: Someone who doesn't understand how things work, but can fake it a little

F: Someone who has no knowledge or skills

Full disclosure: I copied every single math HW assignment of my life until I got to my 3rd year of college.....and thats when I realized I was not as good at math as I thought.

Eventually math gets hard, and if you don't develop the study skills to get through it, you will end up with a C at best.

Written Sat

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Jay Treiman

60 Views

As many of the answers have stated, if the homework is part of the grade the teacher can give you a grade that is slightly below the maximum grade for those who have not done any of the homework.

Part of being able to do well science, engineering, and mathematics classes in college is the speed that you work. If you want to go to college and study in a STEM field in the United States, I suggest you start doing homework to increase your speed, to improve your accuracy, and to improve the clarity of your writing. Being good at all of these will serve you well in any endeavour.

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Monica Turiac

121 Views

Have you tried talking to the teacher so he'll give you different homework? It could be something that is challenging and not repetitive, and actually helps you learn something - maybe math contest problems or something.

I think that's done quite often, and it should be acceptable unless your teacher is a lazy asshole who doesn't want to bother to come up with a different set of homework. I remember my teacher used to do that all the time - she would let all students choose between "do these 10 standard exercises or do these 2 that are really hard".

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Mike Richmond, Studied and worked in universities and schools

18 Views

Ask your teacher to set you alternative, harder, homework.

If you are good at the subject, you should study it outside class as well.

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Larry Shiller

77 Views

What's your goal? Is it to get an A or to learn math? And what principles and values (the ones you live by) does that goal support? For example, which do you value more, ego or truth?

For help on how to think about this read Mindset by Carol Dweck and see Angela Lee Duckworth's TED talk on grit. Then if you want to build your grit go to gritterprofile.org.

Written Sat

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Nancy Feist

27 Views

So here's the deal. Life in the adult world involves doing stuff that seems pointless, but you have to do it anyway. I made it through nursing school and did pointless homework, because if I didn't, no degree and no job. Now that I have a job, not meeting a deadline, no matter how petty I see it, jeopardizes my job and my license. Hubby's an engineer, and he has to do non-engineering paperwork. He does it because he likes getting paid and not being homeless.

has to do non-engineering paperwork. He does it because he likes getting paid and not being homeless.

Honestly, learning how to play the game, as it were will serve you well. In college, your homework might count as part of your grade. my husband was like you, and now he's an engineer, but not before spending a few years paying pack student loans for classes he never went to because they were "too easy."

Suck it it up and turn in the paperwork. If it's really easy, it shouldn't take long anyway.

Written Sun

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Mark Collins, I teach social studies and language arts in junior and senior high school.

81 Views

A teacher can't grade you differently than they grade everybody else, unless you've got a special plan that requires it - usually just for special education students. Your grade comes together as the product of a formula (likely programmed into a computer somewhere) that assigns a percentage of your grade to your tests, a percentage, say, your participation, and a percentage to your homework. No homework? Then no grade in that category. Pretty simple. Pretty basic. Pretty cut and dried. Basic math.

What should you do if you're going to stay in the class? Your homework. This may not seem fair or even a good use of time since it is so easy for you, but as you said yourself, life often isn't fair. At some time or another, we all need to 'jump through the hoops' and do what we've gotta do. Now is your time. Get through it and look forward to the more challenging stuff ahead.

Of course, there may be another option. It *may* be possible for you to 'challenge' your class so you don't have to take it at all. If you could do this, you might be able to get to coursework that is more challenging for you. This generally involves a test of some kind.

Check this out. Talk to your teacher or your principal. It might be what you need to do.

Written Sat

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Faisal Osman

121 Views

If you made it to high school before you had your first bad teacher, you have been very fortunate.

I have had a ton of grades lowered for the most asinine reasons. I once had my english grade lowered because I spoke with an American accent and not a British one.

You seem like a smart kid and this will have no bearing on your future, just endure the stupidity and look forward to graduation

You seem like a smart kid and this will have no bearing on your future, just endure the stupidity and look forward to graduation.

Written Dec 29

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Michael Butler

57 Views

You should understand this as a people problem or a relationship problem and deal with it from that angle. Start with school policy and work down from there. Is there anything that your teacher would accept as a replacement for THIS homework? You could also start by really digging deep into the homework and asking really difficult questions in class as an irritation. You could answer the questions and give them out freely to all the other students. You could offer to help the teacher in some way as a kind of judo maneuver. Look at this in broader terms. This is a people problem not a homework problem.

Written Sat

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Edward O'Neill

132 Views

Do your homework.... It's no one else's fault that your grade will be lowered. It's yours because you didn't do the homework.

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Dennis Boylon

33 Views

I strongly disagree with the responses to this post. I was a straight A student through the 10th grade and literally dropped out after that because I was bored out of my mind. I hate US schooling. It is the worst in the industrialized world. I hate formal "Prussian" style education with a passion. It is a horrible way to learn. It stifles creativity and instills mindless obedience. If you have any desire to do something unique please drop out. Find

US schooling. It is the worst in the industrialized world. I hate formal Prussian style education with a passion. It is a horrible way to learn. It stifles creativity and instills mindless obedience. If you have any desire to do something unique please drop out. Find what interests your mind and study it with a fierce passion. Try to be something better than a robot for worthless professors who never did anything with their so called "knowledge". This is coming from an electrical engineer who has had the pleasure of working globally. I came about my electrical engineering degree in an unusual path. I wouldn't have bothered with it but I needed it to do what I wanted to do. Weak minded losers are sadly the most powerful in our society. They want you to behave like trained seals. Avoid this by finding out what you love to do and do it for who is willing to treat you the best. Most likely you will wind up leaving the USA.

Written Sun

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Anonymous

37 Views

Think about what your life would be like if you only did that which is challenging to you.

Now think about what your life would be like if you only did what is simple or mundane for you.

Personally, I'd rather have some meditative work that I perceive as stress-free with elective time to challenge myself.

Something to think about.

Written Sun

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