



Monitoring Homework

Read and reflect on these examples of how teachers are effectively monitoring and evaluating homework assignments. Answer the questions presented on the following page.

1. *"My students have an open invitation to stay after school or come in early in the morning to get help with their homework. I do insist that they book the time with me so that I can schedule my time. The parents appreciate the time given to ensure that their children get the help they need."*
2. *"We use a home and school communication book in my classroom. Students write the homework assignments in their book by the end of each day. Parents initial the book and return it with the completed homework. It provides a place for notes about other important things as well."*
3. *"I have developed a website for my classroom, and I use it to list the assignments for the week. For those students without Internet access, I provide a printed copy. The number with Internet access is growing every year."*
4. *"Our school has opened a 'before and after school' homework program. The program provides a snack and includes a lesson in study and organizational skills for the students in attendance."*
5. *"We have developed a list of student helpers willing to tutor other students in various subjects. The peer tutoring that has resulted has benefited the tutors as well."*
6. *"We do not assign homework in our school. The constant monitoring of homework was causing stress in the community among parents, teachers, and students. Instead, we have published study booklets for each grade level and parents can choose to use them as extra help for the students. They are not graded."*
7. *"Our school website is kept up to date with links to various activities for parents and students to do independently. Often, a teacher will publish a group of links in association with a specific theme or project. It provides assistance when students are trying to complete homework assignments."*
8. *"We have a homework help line. We employ senior students and local college students in the evening to answer questions from our students. It is open for four hours each night, from 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM."*
9. *"Our homework in the community for our students is in fact a home reading program that the school librarian monitors. Students are provided with a new reading book weekly and then parents indicate the amount of reading accomplished. In our school newsletters, we publish ideas for making reading important and enjoyable at home."*



Assignment Questions:

1. Which of these examples fits with your view of how homework should be administered, monitored and evaluated? Which does not? You can use the example numbers for your response, but provide an explanation as to why your view differs from any of the examples you cited as not being a good fit with your view.
2. Which example do you believe is most supportive of using practice to improve recall and retention? Why?
3. Which example do you believe was most likely to have been negotiated with parents and other stakeholders? Why?
4. Which example do you believe is most likely to engage parents in working with their children on homework assignments? Why?
5. Which example do you believe is most appropriate for children in a low-income urban environment? Why?
6. Which example do you believe is best suited to older students? Why?
7. Which example do you believe is best suited to younger students? Why?
8. Of all the examples cited here, which is the most difficult for the teacher to maintain?
9. Of all the examples cited here, which is the one you are most likely to adopt if you have just joined the school community?
10. If you were to combine elements of these examples to create a new approach, which would you select and which elements would you combine?