

THE HOMEWORK MYTH: WHY OUR KIDS GET TOO MUCH OF A BAD THING Free

The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing by Alfie Kohn. Rethinking Homework - Alfie Kohn. The Homework Myth - (Book) - Alfie Kohn.



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Alfie Kohn
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As a teacher, I have scaled back homework each year and, after 10 years teaching, I only have them do something at home if it's meaningful, tied directly into what we're doing in class, and absolutely impossible to finish during the allotted class time. This gets old by half way through the book. Jan 07, Nathan rated it really liked it. Wouldn't class time be better spent on that practice where the students could get help? Reading the book left me angry with how seemingly no child is left behind from the clutches of the "homework machine" Return to Book Page. As a kid I never understood why after 6 to 8 hours trying to sit still and absorb a constant one-way stream of pre-dictated information I had to go home and do it all over again! It drives me nuts when my kids bring home busywork or work that they CAN'T do and then I have to spend my evening freetime instead of enjoying my kids, dealing with their homework frustrations. In fact, Japan has ended homework in some places. Kids should be kids, yes, but homework is part of ensuring that learning continues after the classroom door closes; furthermore, in some cases, it can actually keep kids as kids, giving them Alfie Kohn should look up rhetorical appeals before he writes another book-- namely, he should have more recent evidence, as well as case studies from fictitious families. Rating details. Sep 05, Liz B rated it really liked it Shelves: nonfiction , professional. In such a position there is a strong temptation to avoid new initiatives that call the status quo into question. Most interesting to me was the early discussion on the negative effect that homework has on children, particularly the family. Skills-based instruction actually decreases learning, but now difficult to find any other kind in low-income schools I found myself actually thinking I would ask teachers how much homework counts towards final grades to determine if the percentage was worth us just not doing it in our home if we didn't feel it was necessary. But, his writing is repetitive. But there are still surely points acquired to meet the pass requirement. Maybe I'll actually pen it and send it one of these days. But there are still Abolish all homework? If you are lost, then you need instruction, not practice. More Details For example, the fact that homework disadvantages some children more than others. Samway, Katharine. It really makes one think about something before quoting a statistic to prove one's point. But when the school is pressuring you to make your kids do homework, or worse punishing them if they don't do it. There's a lot of research out there suggesting that homework After reading Love in the Time of Homeschooling by Laura Brodie, I wanted to read some books about homework. Content protection. Here are some resources that question the conventional assumptions about the subject in an effort to stimulate meaningful thinking and conversation. Additionally, as this was published in i. To ask other readers questions about The Homework Myth , please sign up. Too many first graders are forced to clip words from magazines that begin with a given letter of the alphabet. Ask teachers who are reluctant to rethink their long-standing reliance on traditional homework to see what happens if, during a given week or curriculum unit, they tried assigning none. One argument used to justify tests is vertical - kids need to prepare for what they will face in the future. This item doesn't belong on this page. What are its other effects on their lives, and on their families? It did have some moments in the middle that seemed a little of course to the topic but I guess it was there to add validity to the history of the myth of homework. I think the main take away is to trust children more. Kohn's incisive analysis reveals how a mistrust of children, a set of misconceptions about learning, and a misguided focus on competitiveness have all left our kids with less free time and our families with more conflict. Even if screen time is purely entertainment that doesn't justify homework. I don't give much homework, but that is because I don't believe in busy work; however, I should have given more independent practice this past year, and that's something I intend to rectify next year. But, my feelings as a teacher will most likely not affect my child's experiences throughout her education. This comes from schools. Them But there isn't enough time to do all that practice and cover the content. Testing for Competence rather than Intelligence. Still, when facing the stupefying forces advocating homework, here is a reasonable defense. Why it had to be everyday? Middle class parents would help students break problems down into smaller parts and pose questions; lower class would provide direction. Apr 27, Sharon rated it really liked it. Many people can see how homework takes up so much of kids time, destroys their natural motivation to learn and affects their mental health. He strongly recommends free reading. Kohn's research on homework is extensive, which makes him very creditable. A collection of essays by various authors critical of corporate involvement in schools, including such topics as advertising to children and efforts to privatize education. I must admit, first off, that I read this for a professional development class -- not "just for fun". Points out the ways that thinking about how much homework and what kind begs bigger questions about the nature and purpose -- of education. But it is hard to slog through Alfie Kohn's waterfall of statistics and pronouncements, and his conflation of "studies prove Such policies sacrifice thoughtful instruction in order to achieve predictability, and they manage to do a disservice not only to students but, when imposed from above, to teachers as well. The stress and drudgery of homework may explain why it's so ineffective. Does it seem to assume that children are meaning makers — or empty vessels? Kohn and other like-minded people because it will cost me my job - I teach in Taiwan, where giving less than 2-hour worth of homework equals being a dilettante teacher hazarding with the future of not only the kids but the whole System. These tests therefore do not produce an accurate picture of what children can do. Showing However, he fails to look at the same issues in the research that opposes homework. One basic need all children have, Kohn argues, is to be loved unconditionally, to know that they will be accepted even if they screw up or fall short. The ending was the best. We dangle goodies from candy bars to sales commissions in front of people in the same way that we train the family pet. Aren't their better ways to teach responsibility that don't undermine a child's natural curiosity? In The Homework Myth , nationally known educator and parenting expert Alfie Kohn systematically examines the usual defenses of homework--that it promotes higher achievement, "reinforces" learning, and teaches study skills and responsibility. There's a lot to think about it here and I'm not done doing my "homework" on homework.

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I don't remember many of these exchanges being tense, but they were time consuming. There may be a negative correlation between homework and "learning" because much homework decreases interest in a subject and interest is the number one predictor of success in a subject. Every counterargument that someone mentioned in my conversations, Kohn addresses. Average rating 3. Review of Educational Research 75 Shouldn't you love me? The positive effects of homework are largely mythical. IN fact, many of the same people who claim that their motive for requiring more standardized tests is to learn which schools need help have also been arguing for some time against devoting more resources to education on the grounds that more money for the poorest schools won't help. Since its publication in , this groundbreaking book has persuaded countless parents, teachers, and managers that attempts to manipulate people with incentives may seem to work in the short run, but they ultimately fail and even do lasting harm. It is a well-researched volume with more than references. It drives me nuts when my kids bring home busywork or work that they CAN'T do and then I have to spend my evening freetime instead of enjoying my kids, dealing with their homework frustrations. I was left feeling very sad about my poor little girl facing hours of mindless, yet frustrating homework that eats up her evening hours with her parents and her time to relax. SEcond, the track record of those who demand accountability and tougher standards has not been encouraging in terms of providing needed resources for the many schools and districts that have long been known to be struggling. Alfie Kohn has a lot to say. But, his writing is repetitive. So many times throughout this book I would read aloud to my husband and say, "Who does this sound like? A collection of articles that

were originally published between and , dealing with topics ranging from cheating to national standards to Supernanny. Kohn's criticisms of competition and rewards have been widely discussed and debated, and he has been described in Time magazine as "perhaps the country's most outspoken Alfie Kohn writes and speaks widely on human behavior, education, and parenting. About Alfie Kohn. ERIC document June Too many fifth graders have to color in an endless list of factor pairs on graph paper. Suggest that teachers assign only what they design. Skills develop rapidly and differentially in young children, which means that expecting all students of the same age to have acquired a given set of capabilities creates unrealistic expectations, leads to one-size-fits-all which is to say, bad teaching, and guarantees that some children will be defined as failures at the very beginning of their time in school. Indeed, the reality in China and Taiwan confirms perfectly the claim that homework - or simply a heavy burden on young people creates quite successfully the slave mentality of employees not really standing up to their bosses demanding overtime, weekend work, working when you are sick etc. Even if screen time is purely entertainment that doesn't justify homework. After reviewing just about all the available scientific studies on homework over the last 40 years and examining the underlining presumptions of the need for homework Kohn makes it abundantly clear As a kid I never understood why after 6 to 8 hours trying to sit still and absorb a constant one-way stream of pre-dictated information I had to go home and do it all over again! However, I think the book suffers from poor organization and I think he tries to keep his main pedagogical push separate from that of his other works or takes his other works as an implied background that gets little additional discussion here. This is a good book for any parent, student, administrator or teacher as it provides a different point of view that questions why we do things even when all evidence points to the contrary. Add to Cart. Many people can see how homework takes up so much of kids time, destroys their natural motivation to learn and affects their mental health. When teachers either eliminated homework or greatly reduced assigned homework, they noticed that their students became reinvigorated for learning. However, he fails to look at the same issues in the research that opposes homework. Alfie Kohn should look up rhetorical appeals before he writes another book-- namely, he should have more recent evidence, as well as case studies from fictitious families. Very few people, if any it seems at times, critically evaluate reasons for and types of HW. Some people cannot fathom the idea of no homework that doesn't mean kids don't continue their education at home just that what they will try and learn isn't set and moderated by a teacher but don't panic the work that comes home from schools doesn't have to go away. I don't give much homework, but that is because I don't believe in busy work; however, I should have given more independent practice this past year, and that's something I intend to rectify next year. Skills-based instruction actually decreases learning, but now difficult to find any other kind in low-income schools Alfie Kohn. Me: Just because we did it doesn't make it good for students, especially since younger and younger students are being assigned more and more work. One more thing, suggested in the book but not given much space there, or maybe I missed it: homework gives teachers more power over the kids. Stock photo. Dec 20, Michael Byrne rated it it was amazing. While I didn't agree with all of his interpretations and recommendations, I found a lot of what he said convincing. It did have some moments in the middle that seemed a little of course to the topic but I guess it was there to add validity to the history of the myth of homework. Probably PbR more than UP. More homework is being piled on children despite the absence of its value. While it's good to know I'm n Homework is swallowing my family. This is a shame because the question of homework is intimately connected with the question of what kind of relationship you want your child to have with knowledge. Bennett, Sara, and Nancy Kalish. As a teacher who never really understood the reason for homework but always felt like I had to do it because the rest of my school assigns it, I was glad to read this book because Kohn's research comforted me in what I had always felt, that homework does more damage than good. For starters, there is absolutely no evidence of any academic benefit from assigning homework in elementary or middle school. New Perspective on Old School I like that he is putting conventional "wisdom," or, at least, practice under the microscope and questioning the validity of many assumptions. One basic need all children have, Kohn argues, is to be loved unconditionally, to know that they will be accepted even if they screw up or fall short. Also, Kohn's writing is very well organized. This book was great. Jan 07, Nathan rated it really liked it. What is true of education in general is true of homework in particular. This one felt like a lot of quoting others and unnecessarily long-winded in places. Kohn's research on homework is extensive, which makes him very credible. View 1 comment. Even praise can become a verbal bribe that gets kids hooked on our approval.