

Innovation Area

Homework

**Ideas contributed by graduates of the
Urban Teacher Corps
through the
Polk Bros. Foundation Innovation Network.**

Challenge

Getting students to complete their homework.

Idea:

Teach students the skills they need to complete their homework.
Have consequences for students who do not complete their homework.
Give parents ideas to help their children.
Devote time for after-school homework help.

Application:

Organize after-school program.
Involve parents in the after-school homework program.

How to connect teachers with this idea:

We all have this problem, so everyone would want to work at this. Have teachers begin at their grade levels. When beginning to tackle the problem, have regular short focused meetings. Get administration in on the solution.

Contributing Educator

Tony Gruba
Pablo Casals Elementary

Challenge

Getting students to complete their homework.

Idea:

Investigate *why* students do not complete their homework.
Reevaluate the importance of the assignment.

Application:

Discuss the issue with teachers. Set homework standards with teachers and with students.
Recognize completed homework at the beginning of class period. That should ensure that it is relevant.

How to connect teachers with this idea:

At a professional development meeting, discuss “why” with colleagues, set a plan to investigate solutions, share successes, consult the experts (articles, etc).

Contributing Educator

Peter O’Neil
Foreman High School

Challenge

Getting students to bring in their homework.

Idea:

Set hard consequential rules.

Conferences with parents and/or students.

Recognition to students who bring homework

Have students understand that it is their own grades and overall their own responsibility.

Application:

Call parents.

Lower overall grades.

Set conferences with principal.

Talk to students about expectations.

Praise the homework they bring in and the students who accomplish it.

How to connect teachers with this idea:

Apply the same rules and consequences throughout the school.

Establish a uniform homework code throughout the school.

Challenge

Children are not reinforcing their learning by doing their homework.

Idea:

Have students tally the number of assignments turned in per week compared to all assigned work.

Have students write monthly goals for improvement.

Application:

Develop tally sheet.

Model behavior with overhead.

Have student leader.

Tally homework on Friday afternoon.

How to connect teachers with this idea:

Share results with team teachers at grade level first. As grade level solidifies, offer ideas at teacher in-services.

Contributing Educator:

Craig Pelcin

Cesar Chavez Academy