Homework Survey Results

PRESENTED BY THE LANE TECH PSYCHOLOGY CLUB
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Project Selection Process

It was decided to do this project through a democratic election.

- The idea of the homework survey was inspired by the documentary film *Race to Nowhere*.
- As students, we wanted to compare the situation portrayed in the film to Lane Tech’s educational environment.
Creating the Survey

- The survey underwent three main drafts before being declared the final draft.
- Each draft was brought before the members of the club and critiqued. Each decision concerning the survey was collective decided upon.
- The survey was created to be easily understood by all students, both visually and how the questions and answer choices were phrased.
Sample Size

- 5 divisions were surveyed in each grade level, the number of students in each division varied. The highest number of students in division were in the freshman class.
- Division were randomly selected, every 7 on the list of divisions was selected to be surveyed.
- Each division teacher was notified and asked for permission before the survey was distributed.
- In total 560 students were surveyed.
The students that conducted the survey went in groups of two.

Each student rehearsed the same message to each division to avoid experimental error. The students did not go to a division of their grade level to ensure that our presence and camaraderie with students does not become a variable in itself.

Questions about the survey were addressed after the completion of the survey.
Goals of this Survey

1. To find out if the Race To Nowhere movie applied to Lane students and if we really are being overworked, overstressed, and overcharged with homework.

2. To view homework from a student’s perspective.
   1. Are they willing to see changes to the structure of how homework is assigned?
   2. What kind of impact should homework have on one’s grades?
   3. Do they prefer to be informed about homework assignments early in order to manage their schedules more successfully?
Verifying Consistency

- Questions #9 and 16 as well as questions #8 and #13 are purposely similar to ensure that students are consistent in their answer choices and not simply marking randomly.
- Rephrasing questions also allowed us to see how strong students feel about specific issues or changes that can be made to the assigning of homework. If they felt strongly about something, their answers to both of the similar questions should be almost identical.
Extended Opinion Questions

• To truly make the most of the homework survey, we included two opinion-based response questions that provided a chance for the students to express their personal opinion of homework.

• We also addressed cheating and copying by asking students to explain when it is okay to allow someone to copy your homework.
Freshman Data

Zero Extracurricular Activities

1-2 Hours of Homework a night

5-6 hours of sleep a night

Would do their homework in advance

Finish almost all homework at home
Homework should be worth >50% of their grade

Would almost never do homework if it was not graded

Procrastinate half the time

One Extracurricular activity

Homework helps somewhat

Sophomore Data

Homework should be worth >50% of their grade

Would almost never do homework if it was not graded

Procrastinate half the time

One Extracurricular activity

Homework helps somewhat

Sophomore Data
Junior Data

- Homework helps somewhat
- Procrastinate more than 50% of the time
- 5-6 Hours of Sleep
- Zero Extracurricular Activities
- Finish homework half the time at home

- Q2
- Q3
- Q4
- Q5
- Q6
- Q7
- Q8
- Q9
- Q10
- Q11
- Q12
- Q13
- Q14
- Q15
- Q16
Would do homework if assigned early

Homework should be worth <50% of their grade

>50% of the time homework is finished at home

3-4 AP classes taken

2.0 - 2.9 GPA
GPA of 4.0 and higher

3-4 Hours of Homework a night

5-6 hours of sleep

Almost Always finish homework at home

Homework is helpful 50% of the time
GPA of 1.9 and below

- Procrastinate almost always
- 1-2 Hours of Homework a night
- 5-6 hours of sleep
- Homework is sometimes helpful

Q2 Q3 Q4 Q5 Q6 Q7 Q8 Q9 Q10 Q11 Q12 Q13 Q14 Q15 Q16
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students said:</th>
<th>What would teachers say?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Only if they need it&quot;</td>
<td>Cheating is never okay!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;If they have a good excuse&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;When they miss the lesson&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Always”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Sometimes”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Never”</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“Too much homework brings diminishing returns. Dozens of studies found that kids who do some homework in middle and high school score somewhat better on standardized tests, but doing more than 60 to 90 min. a night in middle school and more than 2 hr. in high school is associated with, gulp, lower scores.”

- Claudia Wallis, Time Magazine
“In 2004, fourth graders who reported doing more than an hour of homework a night got exactly the same score as those whose teachers assigned no homework at all. In 2009, those who weren’t assigned any homework did about as well as those who got either less than one hour or one to two hours; students who were assigned more than two hours a night did worse than any of the other three groups.”

Alfie Kohn, *The Homework Myth: Why Our Kids Get Too Much of a Bad Thing*
After having students take this survey, we can conclude:

- Trends on sleep
- Trends on homework
- Procrastination affects homework/sleep patterns.
- Time management skills needed
Tips For Next Year

- Preparation for college
- Notebook/Binder checks monthly
- Do not accept late work
- Make schedules of assigned homework
- Pass out homework in advance when possible
- Try to distribute homework evenly (especially during breaks)
How Can Results From this Survey be Implemented At Lane Tech?

- Looking at student trends and patterns we can develop an environment that will foster the success of all types of students.
- Provide students with a classroom environment that allows them to use critical thinking skills and prepare them for college rigors.
- Maintain conversation between your students and find ways to take into account all types of learning.
- Most of these points Lane Tech has already achieved!
What is the biggest issue that needs to be addressed at Lane Tech according to this survey?

Without a doubt it is the need for students to develop better time-management skills.

Students may blame teachers about giving too much homework, but the reality of the situation is that they waste too much time and need to learn how to use their time more productively.

SOLUTION:

Teachers can collaborate to find new ways of teaching and advising students about time management skills that they can use in high school and beyond.
Acknowledgements

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