

Extracted Observations ~ Homework

Concordia College Semester 1 2004

General Comments

- Teachers give students a lot of homework to complete, his reason because there are many of boarding students.
- During lesson, the teacher tells me, I must set homework after every lesson.
- In addition, I do not have to go through the homework, but must check that each student has completed the homework.
- All the teachers at Concordia College set homework, for students to complete.
- If I forget to set homework for students, I am given a friendly reminder to set homework.
- Most of students complain about the homework, saying it boring, or that I have set too much homework for them to complete
- Most of the students say it is a waste of time and won't do it.
- Despite their complaints, about 80% of the students complete their homework, and the students who usually complete their homework, but cannot complete the homework, provide notes, as to why it was not completed.
- Students during the course of the teaching practical sat tests, those who had completed the homework, tended to better in the tests, than those who had not done the homework.
- Students doing better in assessment, can also be reflected in other areas of study as well.

Episode

- During the course of my practical, my year 11 Multi-strand class was required to conduct a class forum on the ethical issues of organ transplants, and argue their side for a particular group of people.
- The homework required students to do their own research during class time as well as for homework. When the class forum began, those who had done the homework, demonstrated an understanding and knowledge of the forum topic, and argued well.

Analysis

- Those who had not done any additional work, often misinterpreted the forum topic, and did not give other students a clear idea of what they were arguing.
- Students then used this information to answer questions in a complex reasoning test, those who had done their research and homework, found the test easy.
- Those who had not done the same struggled, on what could have been relatively easy marks for the students to get, to boost up their grades.
- It did not matter what the homework was, students would find a reason to complain about the homework, however students appreciated extra time when, it came to completing something for assessment.

Episode

- In SOSE students were completing several pieces of assessment in relation to Medieval history, which was combined with manual arts, students had to build

a piece of equipment, or something like a sword that was made during this period

- All students completed this for homework, and thought it was fun activity to do.

Analysis

- Most homework for students, they do not consider fun, but if the students view it as a fun activity, even those who do usually complete the homework will.
- Anything that involves writing students consider boring, when students can relate the homework, to there own experiences, they find it more interesting, especially if the homework relate to there own interests, outside of school.
- One of the other reasons why teachers set homework, is get through the content, students of all school ages work, a lot slower than adults, and are really aware of the time constraints teachers face, however, even if the teacher is up to date and so are the students, the teacher will still set homework, for the students to complete.
- But the further the behind the teacher is, the more homework students will receive to complete.

Episode

- My year 10 science class, had to research some information on science careers, for a quiz, students worked in groups of 4, and had to answer 20 questions.

Analysis

- Students like completing homework if there is a reward.
- The group who got the most answers right, received a prize, so the students were all trying to beat each other in this quiz completion to win the prize, at the same time, the students gained a lot of new knowledge about science careers.

Episode

- Another homework activity which students liked was a careers poster, the best poster would be displayed for everyone in the school to see.
- Students wanted to show off there talents to other students, as well as receiving a prize for the best poster.

Analysis

- This activity was a good change from the normal activities, which the students were doing in class.
- The year 10 science class were happy to complete the homework, as long as there was diversity in the activities which they were completing.
- This group of students also worked better, when the teacher allowed the students to run there own sessions of going through the homework, meaning the students went through the homework, while the teacher sat back, and only interrupted to make sure all students got the correct answers to the homework.