

More homework or not more homework!

Today, kids find that the amount of homework they get keeps them from playing sports, taking music lessons or just having fun after school. A recent study by the University of Michigan reports that over the past 16 years, the amount of time the average 3 to 11-year-old kid spends on homework has increased by 50 percent. More and more parents are protesting against so much homework.

“The question is whether schools are holding our children captives with homework,” said Ken Kiewra, professor of educational psychology. He realized one day last year that his sixth-grade son had given up music lessons, the football team and his favourite hobby because he was loaded down with homework. "I'm home reading the paper and relaxing and this kid who left in the morning before I did is doing two to three hours of work," remembered Kiewra.



In response, Kiewra wrote an article for the Lincoln newspaper. Although parents responded favourably to his article, the school refused to change their homework policies. Kiewra explained that, from the school's point of view, “Research confirms that doing homework is better than not doing homework.” He added that pressure for students to perform well on standardized tests has led schools to pile on at-home assignments. All work and no play can make boring kids. “Kids need to play outside and exercise or take art or music classes if they want to,” said Ken Kiewra. “At the very least, they need fresh air”.



A. The purpose of the writer is: (1 point)

1. to show the advantage of doing more homework.
2. to explain why kids need to do more homework .
3. to show why kids shouldn't do more homework.

B. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Justify. (3 points)

1. Kids nowadays have less and less free time.
2. Ken Kiewra did not react to the kids' problem.
3. The parents of other kids don't agree with Kiewra's opinion.

C. Answer the following questions from the text: (3 points)

1. Is Kiewra for or against giving more homework to kids? Explain.
2. What does “this kid” in paragraph 2 refer to?
3. Why did the school refuse to give less homework to children?

D. Find words or phrases in the text meaning the same as: (3 points)

1. quantity (paragraph 1)
2. quit (paragraph 2)
3. positively (paragraph 3)