

RSM 550 - Research Report Assignment

Importance of Homework Completion

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The importance of homework has been an issue debated for years. Some feel that homework is an essential part of learning. Others feel that school work should be done only during school hours. It is often argued whether “homework should be assigned and graded on a regular basis, or should it be viewed as an educational means to an end?” (Carbonne, 2012). Another argument often made is whether homework completion impacts test and quiz grades on the same concept. “The homework question is best answered by comparing students assigned homework with students assigned no homework who are similar in other ways” (Cooper, 2008). Does completing homework help students gain knowledge, and therefore help them on assessments? This report measures the correlation between homework completion the week leading up to a math quiz, and the grade on the quiz. The directional hypothesis for this particular study is as follows: The more the student completes their Algebra homework in a given week, the higher their quiz grade will be on Friday.

Method

Participants

A non-probability sample technique was used. Five participants were chosen from an easily accessible group (convenience sample), my high school Algebra class of 28 students.

Apparatus and Materials

Tools needed: a clip board with checklist, pen/pencil, homework assignments, quiz.

Procedure

Each member of this class was given homework Monday-Thursday. Each homework assignment consisted of ten problems. Each homework assignment was checked for completion. Students were

given a score out of ten for completion. Over the week, each student had their homework checked 4 times by teacher. Each student took a math quiz on Friday. The quiz was only on the topics that were addressed in the week's homework assignments. The quiz consisted of 10 problems. Homework data was collected using a tally method with pen and paper (marking a score out of 10 for completion). The number of homework assignments, and those assignments, were consistent for each participant.

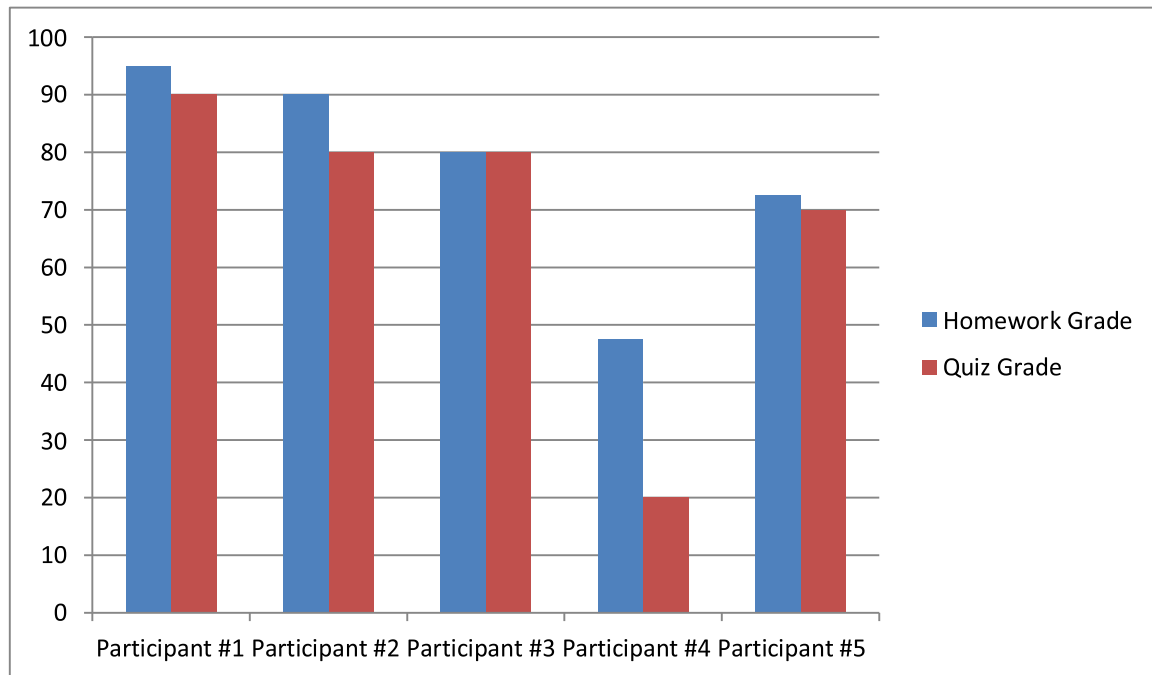
Results:

The table below shows the results for each individual for each daily homework assignment:

Homework Check	Participant #1	Participant #2	Participant #3	Participant #4	Participant #5
Monday	10/10	10/10	9/10	6/10	10/10
Tuesday	8/10	8/10	8/10	9/10	9/10
Wednesday	10/10	9/10	8/10	4/10	5/10
Thursday	10/10	9/10	7/10	0/10	5/10

The table below shows their average homework completion grade and their grade on the end-of-the-week quiz:

	Participant #1	Participant #2	Participant #3	Participant #4	Participant #5
Homework Grade	38/10= 95%	36/40= 90%	32/40= 80%	19/40= 47.5%	29/40= 72.5%
Quiz Grade	9/10= 90%	8/10= 80%	8/10= 80%	2/10= 20%	7/10= 70%



The graph above shows the higher the homework completion grade, the higher their quiz grade.

The correlation coefficient was calculated and came out to be $r=.9633$. This shows there was a strong correlation between homework completion and quiz grade.

Discussion:

After conducting data analysis on whether or not homework completion affects quiz grades, it can be concluded that the more often a student completes their homework on a given topic, the more likely they will perform well on a quiz on the given topic. There was a strong

correlation between the two variables which supports our directional research hypothesis. There are a few limitations that should be noted in this study. First, there was no analysis on previous homework completion and quiz grades. Also, it was not reviewed whether or not these are first time Algebra students, or they are repeaters, who were already familiar with the weekly topic. And finally, homework was simply checked for completion and not for accuracy. A longitudinal study that would yield more accurate results would be to examine the correlation between homework accuracy and quiz grades.

References:

- Carbonne, S. (n.d.). The Value of Homework: Is Homework an Important Tool for Learning in the Classroom? - Student Pulse. Academic Articles. Online Academic Journal - Student Pulse. Retrieved November 15, 2012, from <http://www.studentpulse.com/articles/99/the-value-of-homework-is-homework-an-important-tool-for-learning-in-the-classroom>
- Cooper, H. (n.d.). Does Homework Improve Academic Achievement?: If So, How Much Is Best? - SEDL Letter, Afterschool, Family, and Community, Volume XX, Number 2, August 2008. Welcome to SEDL: Advancing Research, Improving Education. Retrieved November 15, 2012, from <http://www.sedl.org/pubs/sedl-letter/v20n02/homework.html>