

HOMework

THAT WORKS FOR

MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS & EVERYONE

OLIVIA MULCAHY | CLAIMED.BLOG | 2019 | @MAESTRAOLIVIA

CLEAR EXPECTATIONS

Communicate your intent behind homework, as well as instructions for assignments in a format & language that students & families understand. Match work to purpose and make sure the goal is achievable, e.g. if it's meant to be practice, make sure students are truly at an independent level.



BALANCED AMOUNT

Aim for 10 minutes/night X grade level, maximum! (And...it's okay not to assign homework every day.) Tell students it's fine to stop after a true effort for a reasonable amount of time. Their other responsibilities are important, & rest & recreation are needed & valuable so they can be focused in class.



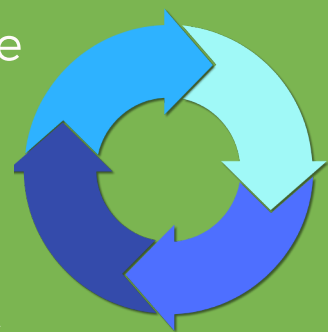
MEANINGFUL

Offer homework that is connected to students' classwork, cultures & experiences, and is designed with both their academic & linguistic development firmly in mind. Use homework as a way for families to engage with the ideas kids are exploring & as an invitation to contribute their funds of knowledge.



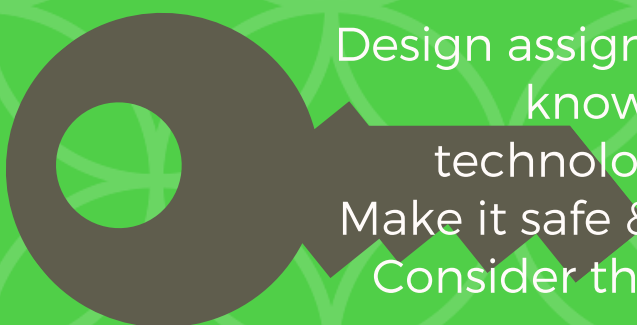
USED FORMATIVELY

Review & correct homework, but don't grade it. Have a system for students to share with you what challenged them/why they couldn't complete it. Use this input to shape future lessons, groupings & homework. Grading homework can create high stakes, add stress, inspire cheating & widen inequity.



ACCESSIBLE

Design assignments that require only resources you know everyone has. Students may not have technology, quiet work space, or available help. Make it safe & easy to let you know what they need. Consider the opportunity to maximize the unique resources, skills & experiences families do have.



LANGUAGE OPTIONS

Encourage use of entire linguistic repertoire & offer students choice in language for homework. Even if you can't read it, the cognitive experience & skills practice is valuable. Drafting, brainstorming, etc. in a language other than English will support content learning, English development & bilingualism.

