

HOMework (LA TAREA)

When I grade homework, I grade it for completion, not for correctness. As long as a student has completed the work, he gets all the points. I know that students are going to make mistakes in their homework assignments. I will not count off for this, but the homework has to be complete. If a student only does part of the assignment and does not complete it, he receives a zero. Everyone can complete the assignment. Everyone can make an educated guess at the correct answer. To me, homework points are pretty much "free" points. All you have to do is complete the work.

I give students this example-- if I send in half my mortgage payment, the bank doesn't say, "Okay, we'll put you down for half, Mrs. Joyce." If I keep trying to pay half my car payment (like some students always show me half a homework assignment) the bank doesn't say, "That's okay. We'll give you partial credit." They repossess my car! This homework policy is meant to *help* your child, not hurt him. Students don't have to have perfect papers. They don't have to know all the right answers. But they have to *complete the task*. That is a real-world skill that I am trying to reinforce. I think it will serve students well after they leave my classroom. You may not necessarily agree with the policy, but I hope that you will support me as I try to prepare your child for life after Spanish class and after Bunker Hill. There is value in a job that is completed to the end.

On the first progress report, if you see one homework zero, I would not be alarmed. Your child probably just forgot an assignment. By the time we get to the end of the 9 weeks, that zero will have no effect on his average. But if you see 4 or 5 zeros, somebody isn't doing their work. Again, all they have to do is *complete* the work.