T.E.X.A.S. SAMPLE PARAGRAPH

The concern over increased amounts of homework has been growing in the United States but recent studies show that the amount has not changed as much as people think. The new educational policies in New York State, such as the Common Core Standards, have been the subject of much controversy. Many parents and teachers believe there is too much testing, and too much work overall for students. However, recent studies found that the amount of homework students have now is not much different from the amount their parents had 30 years earlier. After surveying elementary school students, results showed an average of 30-45 minutes of homework being completed each night. The average high school student had closer to an hour of work. These numbers are consistent with the format published by the National Parent Teacher Association which states that the amount of time students should spend on homework should be their grade level multiplied by ten minutes. For example, a third grader should have 30 minutes of homework. This shows that the amount of homework given today is not very different to the amount given in the past. The biggest change was seen in third graders who did not have much homework at all in the 1980’s. Now they are seeing closer to thirty minutes of homework a night. Many people think this is a change for the better as people can argue that homework can help students develop better study habits, and the ability to see that learning continues outside of the classroom. Homework is and will continue to be a useful tool in evaluating what a student can do without the help of a teacher or other students.