Abusing Research: The Study of Homework and Other Examples
inside out is what matters to us, and if we don't have any evidence that assigning homework helps them to acquire this...to improve the limited band of skills that appear on these tests. It's probably not a coincidence that, even within...

Excessive reliance

proof three works by other researchers. When I tracked down these sources, two didn't even mention hyperactivity and the...

Perhaps homework “should” have such an effect, but Cooper knows there's no evidence that it does. What he and a group ...

isn't sufficient to justify that conclusion. Statistical principles don't get much more basic than “correlation doesn't ...

Public officials, however, are not the only people who use research selectively. Disturbing as it is to acknowledge, ...

The last, and most common, way to measure achievement is with standardized tests. Purely because they're standardized, ...

children back a year because they're experiencing academic difficulties is about the worst possible course of action with...

Similarly, it should be possible to question how science, with its emphasis on quantifiable variables, came to be the ...

The assumption that all true knowledge is scientific (sometimes known as ...

Consider the popular book

Research Based Strategies for Increasing Student Achievement

that study went on to conclude that "pass-fail grading might prove more beneficial if instituted earlier in the student's...

55. Cooper says that he intends to draw not only from the data but from the “tacit knowledge” (the quotation marks are...

45. Bill Barber, “Homework Does Not Belong on the Agenda for Educational Reform,”...

32. Robert J. Marzano, Debra J. Pickering, and Jane E. Pollock,

30. Alfie Kohn, Classroom . . . And Other Essays

31. He also observed that practice homework was of no value for children who hadn't already learned the material ...


29. In his book, The Battle Over Homework, this researcher decided, was eventually published as “Television and Children: ReViewing the Evidence,” in...

28. To release the report, and only later was it published in an academic journal. [12]

27. The problem, this researcher decided, was that the children didn't always do the homework, ...

26. “Effect on grades of amount of homework assigned

25. The original paper was published in 1962, and because Cooper writes, “As you might expect, [Cooper] finds plenty of positive effects associated with homework, including improving students’ study skills.…”

24. In other words, his experiment too accurately matched the real world, where homework apparently provides ...

23. Cooper says that he intends to draw not only from the data but from the “tacit knowledge” (the quotation marks are...

22. "Effect on grades of amount of homework assigned "

21. He also observed that practice homework was of no value for children who hadn't already learned the material ...

20. The problem, this researcher decided, was that the children didn't always do the homework, ...

19. He also observed that practice homework was of no value for children who hadn't already learned the material ...

18. What every effort to try to prevent students from falling behind while they were home, such as having them study for homework ...

17. Cooper says that he intends to draw not only from the data but from the “tacit knowledge” (the quotation marks are...

16. His work has featured prominently in media reports on both the positive and negative effects of homework and has been cited by researchers...

15. Excessive reliance

14. The point was to change the homework experience, not to compare homework with its absence, so it would be impossible to infer any benefit from giving it.

13. “There is a tendency that goes almost without comment to equate the number of hours children spend on homework with the amount of study that takes place.”

12. “Effect on grades of amount of homework assigned” – No sig. relationship

11. The problem, this researcher decided, was that the children didn't always do the homework, ...

10. He also observed that practice homework was of no value for children who hadn't already learned the material ...

9. “Effect on grades of amount of homework assigned – No sig. relationship

8. "Effect on grades of amount of homework assigned" – No sig. relationship

7. Alfie Kohn, The Homework Myth

6. The research on which Cooper's work is based is replete with methodological flaws, but in fairness, that is not his main concern. What Cooper shows in his book is that research is being used selectively to promote his view of the limitations of homework.

5. "Effect on grades of amount of homework assigned - No sig. relationship

4. Cooper says that he intends to draw not only from the data but from the “tacit knowledge” (the quotation marks are...

3. A case could be made that the results in this study support the cooperative-learning research of Robert Marzano, who has shown that students who receive a lot of practice ...

2. "Effect on grades of amount of homework assigned" – No sig. relationship

1. "Effect on grades of amount of homework assigned" – No sig. relationship

The complete bibliography appears on pages 119-123.