

## Homework Continued

### How long does it take to do homework assignments?

If secondary ESL students are given 2 ½ hours of homework a night, it can take them 5 to 8 hours to complete the assignments.

### Who should do Homework?

The student should do the homework.

Some parents think that help from an older sibling will produce better grades. Help should take the form of making the instructions easier to understand.

Teachers give both in-class and homework assignments. Both count for marks. If students do not have enough practice doing the work independently, they may not do well overall.

Tutors can help students who have a higher level of English to deal with more academic content.



## Using Computers

Many secondary students are encouraged to use computers for school work. If you do not have a computer at home, your public and school libraries have computers students can use.



## “Homework in BC Secondary Schools”

This brochure is one in a series sponsored by the VSB SWIS program and produced collectively by a group of ESL teachers and the VSB MCLW team.



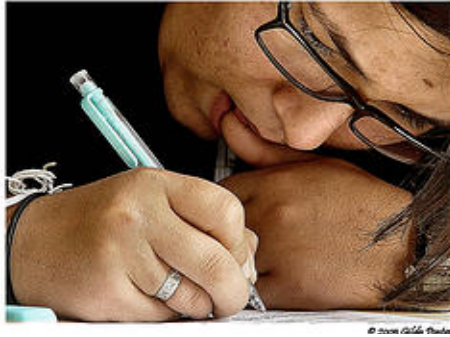
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# Understanding Homework in BC Secondary Schools



**Grades 8 to 12**

## Homework in BC



### What are the BC Ministry of Education guidelines on homework?

The Ministry of Education sets guidelines for the amount of homework to be given to B.C. secondary students.

These guidelines are:

**Gr. 8 to 12 ► 1 to 2 hours per night**

Students learning English will take longer.

More homework is given to students in grades 6 to 12 than to younger students.

### Examples of Homework

- Complete work assigned in class.
- Read a book in English or home language for a specified time.
- Watch a specific TV program in English.
- Gather information from various sources.
- Work with classmates on a class or group project.
- Write a journal entry.
- Read or reread chapters in a text or novel.
- Think or reflect on a given topic and write about it.
- Draw a sequence of events or a storyline.
- Listen to some music.

**In BC, teachers see more value in the quality of work rather than the quantity.**

### Purposes of Homework

**There are many reasons for giving homework. Teachers want learners to:**

- *be ready for different/new work the next day.*
- *become better readers.*
- *increase vocabulary.*
- *practice language skills.*
- *improve writing.*
- *learn or practice skills.*
- *expand background knowledge about a topic or content area.*
- *improve ability to follow a story's development (plot line, character, cause and effect of events, and to predict what may come next).*
- *learn and practice working together in pairs or groups.*