



MACKAY NORTH STATE HIGH SCHOOL

Homework @ North



Year 7	$\frac{3}{4}$ – 1 hour (maximum of 3 – 4 sessions per week)
Year 8 and Year 9	1 hour per school night
Year 10	1½ hours per school night
Year 11 and 12	2–3 hours per school night (minimum)

At North we don't ask the question, "Do I have Homework?"; we ask "What type of Homework do I have tonight?" Homework at North involves a combination of the following four activities:

- 1. Revising the day's work.** Students should be reading over, rewriting or mind mapping the work covered in class that day as brain research shows that if you want students to retain information in the long term, they need to practise the idea (mind mapping/repeating it/using it/teaching it to someone else):
 - 1 hour after you first learn it
 - Within 48 hours of learning it
 - 7 days after learning it
 - 1 month after learning it (if it's still there then you've got it)
 - 6 months after learning it.
- 2. Completing set activities.** This may be a weekly worksheet, spelling list, question or activities which are based on the day's work, or a specific phase of an assignment process. It is work that may be written in the diary and checked and consequences given if it is not completed.
- 3. One of the phases of the assignment process** – either: researching, planning, drafting or checking final copy, placing check dates on the students home semester planner. (see Seek Higher Powerpoint on School website or Homepage for details of the assignment Process)
- 4. Reading** to make up the allotted time for each Year level. There is a section in the school diary for Parent signature, so if a teacher sets a task such as reading for 20 minutes, they can check the parent signature as verification. Copies of parent signature are available at the office if required.

Every teacher is expected to have students write one of the above types, or combinations thereof, in their diaries at the completion of every lesson. Students' diaries are checked every Friday in Homegroup, not just for having a diary, but that they are writing in it.

Some Tips and Tricks:

- ❖ Encourage students to do their computer work first. If they stay up late the light from the computer screen can affect their cortisol levels which means they may have less, and poorer, sleep.
- ❖ Encourage them to take breaks every 20 minutes or so to stay alert.
- ❖ Drink water and minimise the caffeine based drinks as they will only make you alert, but still limit your ability to remember and recall information.

Administration Roles:

- ❖ Set and develop policy and support staff and students to apply and follow policy. This may include liaising with parents, in a supportive, disciplinary role or ensuring the school diary is available and affordable to all students.

Teacher Roles:

- ❖ Ensure students take their diary into every class, and write down homework which may be one or some of the activities listed above.
- ❖ Check the homework the next time you have that class and have appropriate consequences for students who have failed to complete it appropriately

Student Roles:

- ❖ To maintain an effective, neat and useable school diary.
- ❖ To take that diary into every class where practicable.
- ❖ To complete all homework tasks set.
- ❖ To see the teacher well before class if unable to complete the set tasks.

Parent Roles:

- ❖ To check the student's diary and that the homework is being completed.
- ❖ Ensure the student's Semester Planner is visible and being completed with assignment dates, draft dates etc every term.