Argument/Opinion

Homework: How much is enough??

Recently our class read an article in the Time for Kids Magazine. The title was "Too Much Homework!?" and it was about how much homework kids are doing today. It said that 100 years ago, kids never had any homework because they had to work on their farms or do chores for their families.

Introduces the text clearly

But in the 1950's, American kids began to score really low on math and science tests. Other countries were doing better than we were. Teachers thought that since their students were getting low grades, they should do some homework to practice and catch up to the rest of the world. Since then students have been getting more and more homework and it doesn't look like that is going to change. I think that students should have enough homework, but still have time for fun. So, students in third grade should start having 15 minutes a night and work up to a little over an hour by the sixth grade.

States an opinion

Links opinion and reasons using words and phrases

One reason to have homework is kids can become more responsible. For example, if someone usually forgets a due date, he can practice remembering and using an assignment book to help him remember his homework. When kids grow

up and get a job, they will have deadlines to meet and homework is good practice for that.

Another reason to have homework is a kid can become faster at doing his work. If he needs to practice multiplication he can do that at home better than at school. Also, some kids who have big projects or posters would rather work where it is quiet and they can concentrate better. Also, long searches on the Internet are done at home easier than at school because you can be comfortable at home and you don't have a schedule to keep.

Provides logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.

These are the reasons why I think students in third grade should start having 15 minutes a night and work up to a little over an hour by the sixth grade. If you agree with what I have said you should write a letter to the Superintendent and Principal so she can show it to the School Board. Thank you for your support.

Provides a concluding section related to the opinion presented.

This opinion piece was written after reading an article called "Too Much Homework!?". The writer begins by introducing the text, and then clearly introduces the topic using specific facts from the text *("But in the 1950's American kids began to score really low on math and science tests").* After establishing this context, the writer states an opinion *("I think students should have enough homework, but still have time for fun."),* and then provides two reasons for the opinion. Each reason is explained, using supporting facts *("When kids grow up and get a job they will have deadlines to meet")* and details *("he can practice remembering and using an assignment book")*. Related ideas are grouped in paragraphs to support the writer's purpose, and phrases are used to link reasons to the opinion *("One reason", "For example", "Another reason").* The concluding section offers a specific recommendation (students in third grade should start having 15 minutes a night and work up to a little over an hour by sixth grade) and a call to action *("if you agree with what I have said you should write a letter").*