HOMEWORK IN THE AGE OF AI: RELEVANCE AND NEW CHALLENGES

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For decades, homework has traditionally served as a bridge between school and home. It's the extension of the lessons learned from school that is sustained and reinforced at home. However, the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) in education, especially generative AI tools like ChatGPT, changes how students approach the assignments given by the teachers (Meishar-Tal, 2024; Tossell, et al., 2024; Bolboacă, 2023).

In fact, AI tools such as ChatGPT, Grammarly, and various math-solving apps offer students instant access to information, requiring minimal effort to write essays, solve mathematical problems, or even generate artwork instantly. These technologies can be powerful learning aids when used responsibly, but also pose the threat of developing laziness and reliance on the part of the students (Anjani, 2025; Chan, 2024).

The growing reliance on AI can also weaken the original purpose of homework. Students nowadays are aware of the use of AI. With these tools, they can easily complete an entire assignment without engaging with the material. They might even take advantage of AI without even understanding what the assignment is all about. As a result, the use of AI in completing homework can result in shallow learning and overdependence on technology. The students' use of AI is likely going to become a shortcut to quick compliance rather than a study support for home learning.

This issue presents a serious challenge for teachers (Dhamija & Dhamija, 2025). The availability of AI makes it harder for teachers to determine if the assignments submitted by their students are from their own understanding or just a mere product of generative

AI. This requires teachers to implement teaching methods and assessment strategies that will address the lack of authenticity and integrity in homework that was made through the use of AI.

On the other hand, parents must also be aware of the use of AI and must guide their children in keeping academic honesty in working on their assignments. Academic support at home is crucial in keeping our students responsible for their learning, and parents play an important role in encouraging their children not to rely too much on the us of AI in completing their homework.

While using AI tools for support is not inherently wrong, students need to be taught when and how to use AI responsibly. This means that teachers should start integrating digital literacy into the curriculum and have open conversations about ethics, originality, and the value of effort. The way to address this is not to ban AI altogether, but teachers must help students use it as a guide. This can be given a similar analogy as to how calculators were once viewed as threats, but are now accepted as parts of math education.

In light of these changes, homework is not becoming irrelevant, but it does need to evolve. It shouldn't be, in anyway, disregarded in lesson planning but it must be given a different treatment than it was before. The challenge is for teachers to make meaningful, thought-provoking assignments that encourage analysis, creativity, and personal insight. Teachers can also design homework that requires students to explain their thinking. The end goal is not to avoid using AI totally, but to use it as a study support rather than a shortcut for doing homework.

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