Name:

Opinion Brainstorming

Brainstorm several answers to each question to try to focus your topic more.

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| What is the topic? What smaller topics lead to the larger topic? | Homework. The amount students get. How it varies from class to class, grade to grade. A lot in 5th grade, none in middle school for some reason, a ton here. Reading, homework, projects, worksheets, papers, studying. Lack of sleep due to homework - physical effects include backpack |
| Who is involved? Who can make a difference? | Teachers - trying to cover material, some avoid, grading, Different teachers give diff amounts for same class.  Students - some overwhelmed, others have none. responsibilities after (and before) school. Some work until 10 pm, then have hour of homework. Keeping track of assignments. Prep for college.  Parents - can’t help with homework because they forgot/didn’t learn. How do they fit in? |
| Where do you see this topic? | At our school at diff levels. Other schools in district. National concern? Amount in other countries, how do we compare? High school vs college - are our students going to be ready for level of homework there? |
| When did the topic begin? When has it become more prominent or problematic? | Levels at different grades. Is amount increasing? Pressure due to testing? Ask teachers. Schedule changed to block - does that affect homework? |
| Why is this topic important? | Life is more than school, students want to be ready for next level and learn skills and work ethic, but feeling overwhelmed. |
| How do people react to this topic? How do they need to react? | Teachers need to be more thoughtful about homework they give, students need to know amount of homework for diff classes when planning schedule. Teachers work together to eliminate unnecessary homework - so consistent in same classes. |

Circle the answers that seem most interesting or relevant to turn into your claim.

Claim (focused topic + focused opinions):

Students taking the same class can have different amounts of homework, so teachers need to standardize that so students get important learning experiences, but not unnecessary work.

Brainstorm five reasons you think your claim is important. Write your answers in “Reasons for claim”

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| Reasons for claim | Counterarguments (from peers) | Notes (after counterarguments) |
| Some teachers give more homework than others in same class, but students in both classes seem to do well at next level, on tests, etc. | Do we know this? Sometimes kids do better with one teacher’s style than others and the harder teachers teach more. |  |
| Students get overwhelmed with too much homework. | Students need to use time better- they have time for Facebook at school. |  |
| Students try to take sections of class with easier teachers so those get crowded. | Not really - counselors cap classes at a certain size. Also different kids like different teaching styles so it evens out. |  |
| Some students miss cool projects because they took the wrong section of a class. | Cool project to one person is more work to another. Also some teachers better at some things than others. |  |
| Some sections get further than others and that makes it hard if students need to switch teachers. |  |  |