**SAMPLE COUNTERCLAIM FOR AN ARGUMENT ESSAY**

TOPIC: HOMEWORK is GOOD

Those who oppose this position argue that too much homework is stressful for high school students because it replaces social experiences, outdoor recreation/exercise, creative activities, and sleep. In addition, excessive homework can lead to cheating by copying someone else’s paper or using homework cheat sites online. These concerns are certainly valid because a teen’s life should be a balanced if they are to be healthy and happy, and because many teens want to be involved in multiple activities outside of their academic courses. However, what these arguments fail to acknowledge is that laziness and social media quagmires are the true culprits wasting students’ valuable time, not homework. Most students are addicted to their cellphones and spend an inordinate time every day (and night) watching mind-numbing cat videos and cartoon reruns from their childhood, scrolling through endless instagrams, and texting mindless drivel to their friends (and/or enemies). Other time-sucks include Netflix (and the many many video streaming companies like it) and gaming. Hours spent on such entertainment could be allocated to homework and developing a disciplined and educated mind able to function in an increasingly complex and competitive world. Two words refute the “homework replaces life” argument: time management. As to the argument about homework creating a culture of dishonesty, the concept of cheating has more to do with one’s laziness and character flaws than the amount of homework assigned. Cheaters gonna cheat, no matter what. This is a moral issue that is deep-seated and tied to one’s core values and sense of identity. Reducing homework is unlikely to reduce cheating because there is no direct causation between the two. Furthermore, the excuse that homework is damaging our youth and turning them into dishonest degenerates crumbles when one realizes most schools have time built into their schedules for homework help. After school math labs, science labs, study halls, and individual teacher tutoring is common practice, not to mention free tutoring websites like BrainFuse and Khan Academy—most students are too apathetic to take advantage of these opportunities. In addition, students can opt for online classes which take less time and afford more flexibility than regular brick and mortar classrooms. Another solution might be for a student to consider an alternative high school where electives are eliminated and only academic core classes necessary to obtain a diploma. Still another solution would be for students who are “overbooked” to pare down their extra-curriculars to one or two and see themselves as students first. Life is stressful, homework or not, and the students who learn to manage their responsibilities and teir time will ultimately acquire mental endurance and a killer work ethic that will ensure success now and in the future.

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