

Assignment for all teachers, due tomorrow

by senior Lauren Kahler.

Hey teachers, I have an assignment for you. Your task? **Be more thoughtful about homework.**

✓ **Don't assign so much.** Too much homework stresses me out more than it helps. In the end, I just throw in some answers- not caring if they're right- just so I can get it done.

Did you know that I take other classes, just like you teach other classes? Because I do. It's overwhelming when all of my teachers assign homework that takes me at least an hour to complete... each! One hour times seven classes, equals seven hours of homework.

You may just look at an assignment as a short, 20 minute worksheet, but it takes three times as long for me to actually complete because I'm not an expert, like you.

Have you ever had a little kid ask you if you live at school? If you have, you probably told them something like, "No, because I have a life outside of school." Well, I have a life outside of school, too. Please respect that. For example, I have a job that requires me to be there. I have family and friends who need me to be present. I also need to sleep if I am to remain sane and physically healthy.

✓ **Make it worthwhile.** If you do give me homework, please don't waste my time. Make sure there is a purpose as to why I am pouring my heart and soul into the work you assign me. Do I need to practice the same thing 20 times over? Or will two times suffice?

Also, no busy work should be allowed. That means no crossword puzzles. No fill in the blanks. Nothing that you assign, only for me to find out on the due date, I won't be turning in.

Busy work is a waste of time. I have had teachers assign some pretty useless homework over the four years I've been in high school. It doesn't help me achieve higher knowledge on whatever topic I'm studying. And, unless you are a teacher who uses standards-based grading, please score my homework. I didn't do it for fun.

I'm not the type of student who wants no homework at all, I'm just asking for a smaller amount that has purpose. My education is important to me, but that doesn't mean I want my whole life to revolve around due dates.

See you in class tomorrow- with your assignment completed.

Quips & Quandaries

with sophomore Caleb McCullough.

And they're off! Ones to watch in the race to the Oval Office

With the Iowa caucuses approaching in February and the presidential elections coming up in November, the election year is in full swing.

This election cycle has been crazy with two out-of-nowhere, non-politicians leading the Republican polls and a surprise contender giving popular candidate Hillary Clinton a run for her money on the Democratic side.

I encourage any reader who can vote to get registered and head to the caucuses in February, and to the voting booths in November to exercise your privilege as a citizen and decide the future of our country.

Unsure of who to vote for? Consider these, my humble opinions, on poll leaders in each party.

Hillary Clinton is the "safe pick" for Democratic voters.



She doesn't take any chances. She plays by the rules. Her views on civil rights, energy and economy are all what you'd expect from a Democrat. Unfortunately, Clinton gets into some question when you see where she gets her funding, from big banks (Citi, JP Morgan/Chase, etc.) or individuals in those companies. That leave some voters to wonder that she's going to protect the interests of these banks and firms, possibly at the expense of the American people. She seems to be a **viable Democratic option**, but she's not my favorite.

Bernie Sanders is the change that young Democrats



have been wanting. Sanders fights for progressive idealism through a system called "**Democratic Socialism**". He presents his vision without compromise, and people are responding. Among his planned policies are free universal healthcare, free public college and lower incarceration rates. By significantly raising taxes on the rich and taxing stock trades, he plans to put more money in the pockets of working people and fund such endeavors, which is not sitting well with some people. Is Sanders a breath of fresh air for the nation, or simply a socialist radical who will ruin the foundations of America? To me, it really seems like Sanders will usher in the change that we need.

Dr. Ben Carson delivers the **non-politician vibe**



that people admire about Trump, but brings a little more sanity to the equation. The key words here are "a little". He's well spoken and intelligent. But he still has wacky, off the wall ideas: He doesn't believe in climate change. He advocates a ridiculously low flat tax plan. Most of all, he just seems like he doesn't know enough about the game to play it well. If someone has no experience in politics or economics at all, jumping in at the top seems dangerous.

Donald Trump brings something to the table that



Americans have been craving: **blunt honesty**. He's so fascinating because he doesn't conform his ideas around politics. He thinks like a businessman. But once you dig deeper into his ideas, you find some pretty crazy stuff: plans like incredibly low tax on corporations and radical crime policies. His opinion on foreign people and cultures is what really stands out though. He even hinted that Muslims would need to be in a national registry and carry special identification cards. Sorry but this is outright xenophobic nonsense. The singling out of one religious group is despicable and reminds me of a certain European leader in the 1930s, one who also promised to fix the economy. "Make Germany great again," perhaps?

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