

Graded Homework: Should the Students Decide?

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The Great Homework Debate

[Suggested Homework Problems \(Not Graded\)](#)

Some students need more practice than others.

[Commercial Online Homework Systems](#)

Built-in “help” features
But expensive

[WeBWorK - MAA's Open Source system](#)

No built-in help features
But free for students

Students have different needs.

Some are too shy to seek help from professors.

Some live off campus and work a lot.

Some struggle to pay tuition.

Some have a strong math background.



What if we gave them choices?

Graded Homework Option

Tests - 60%

Homework 15%

Quiz/Problems Sets - 15%

Attendance - 10%

No Graded Homework Option

Tests - 70%

Quiz/Problems Sets - 20%

Attendance - 10%

Graded Homework options...

Online Homework

Pearson's MyMathLab

Was \$105

Now \$70* per semester

Paper Homework

Old Edition of text

\$8 on E-bay

Turn in homework for unit on test
day

What would they choose?

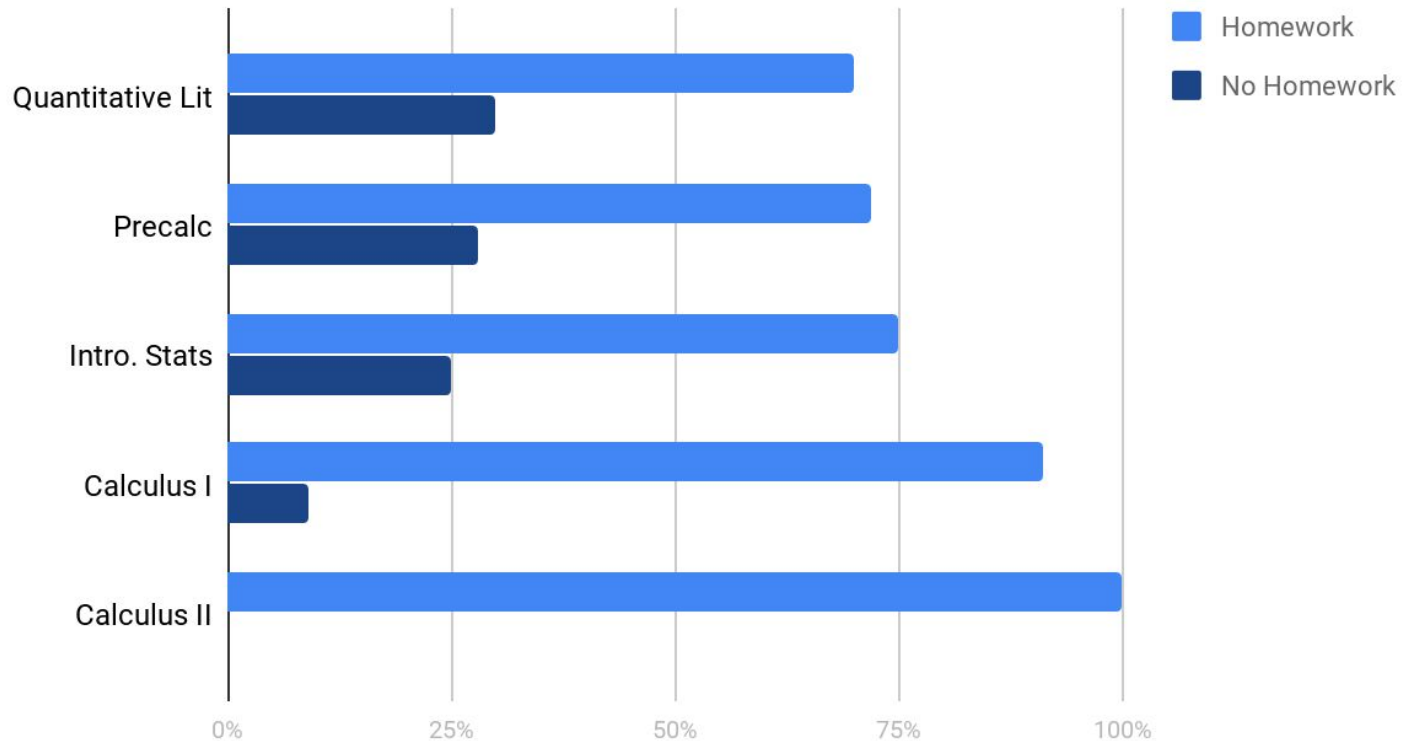
We had some anxiety about this!

Will anyone do any homework?

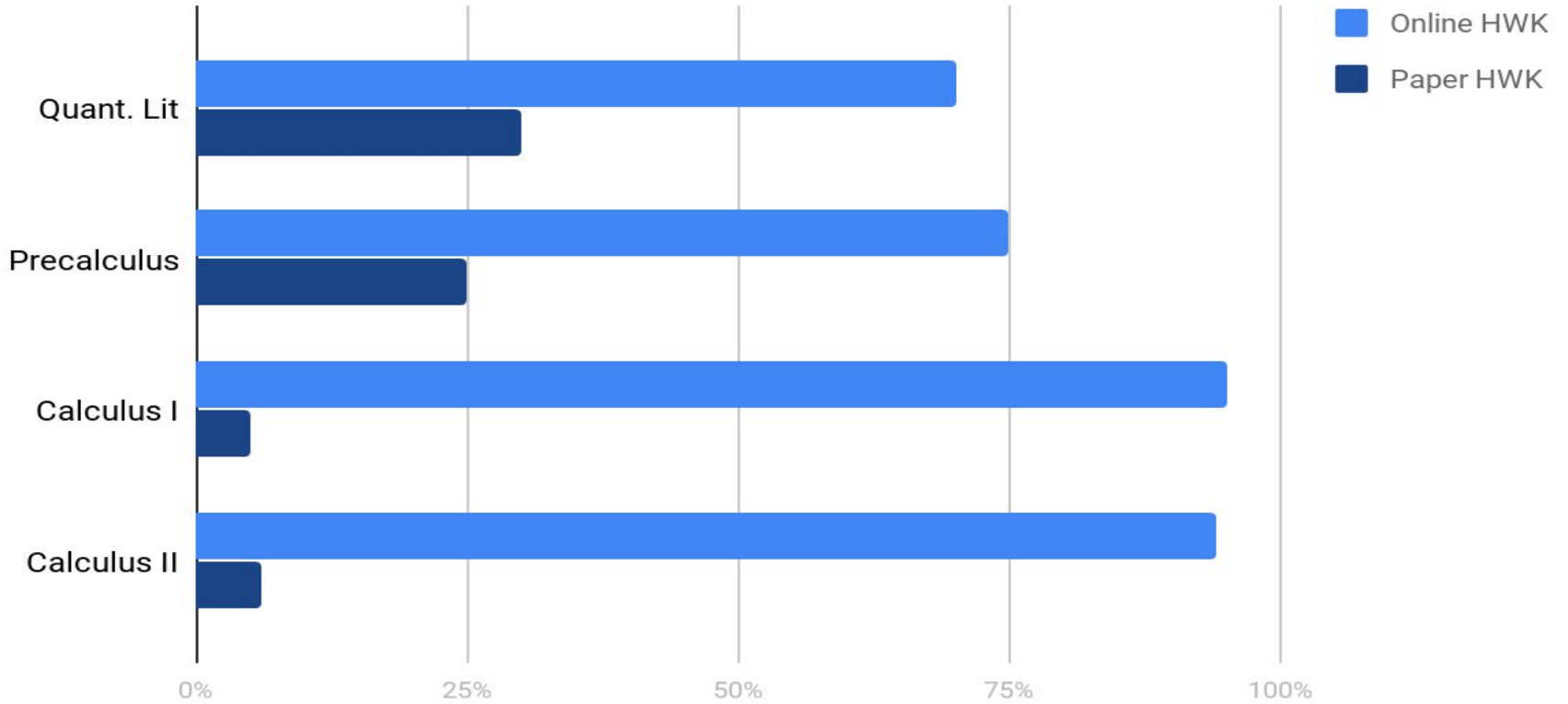
Will half the class fail and blame us?

Will we drown in paper homework?

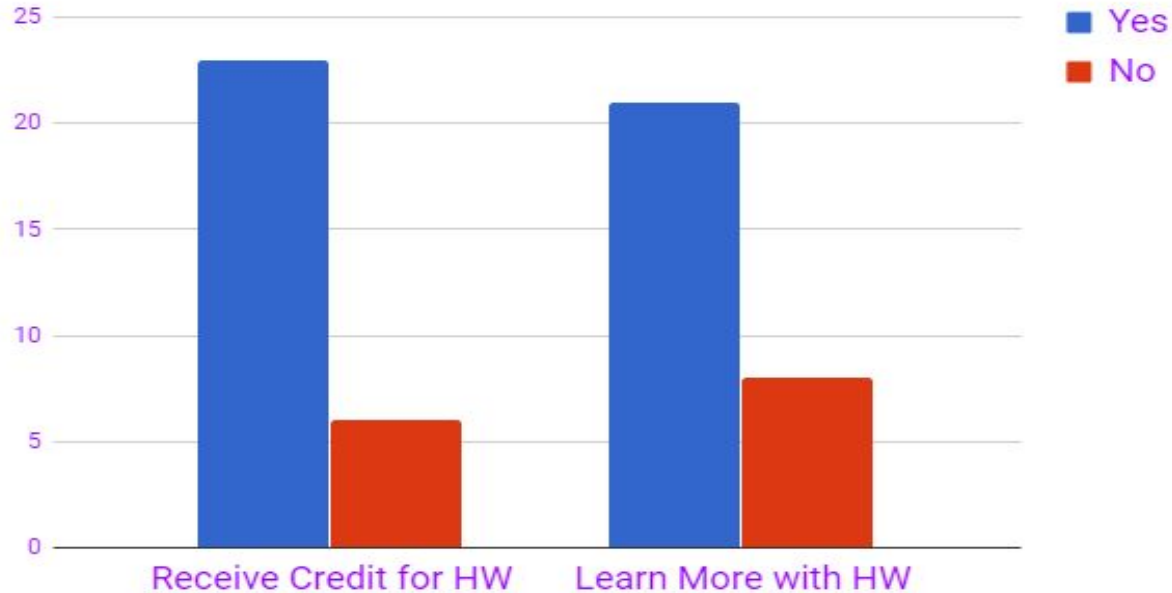
Homework or No Homework



Online vs. Paper Hwk



Why did people choose to do Homework?

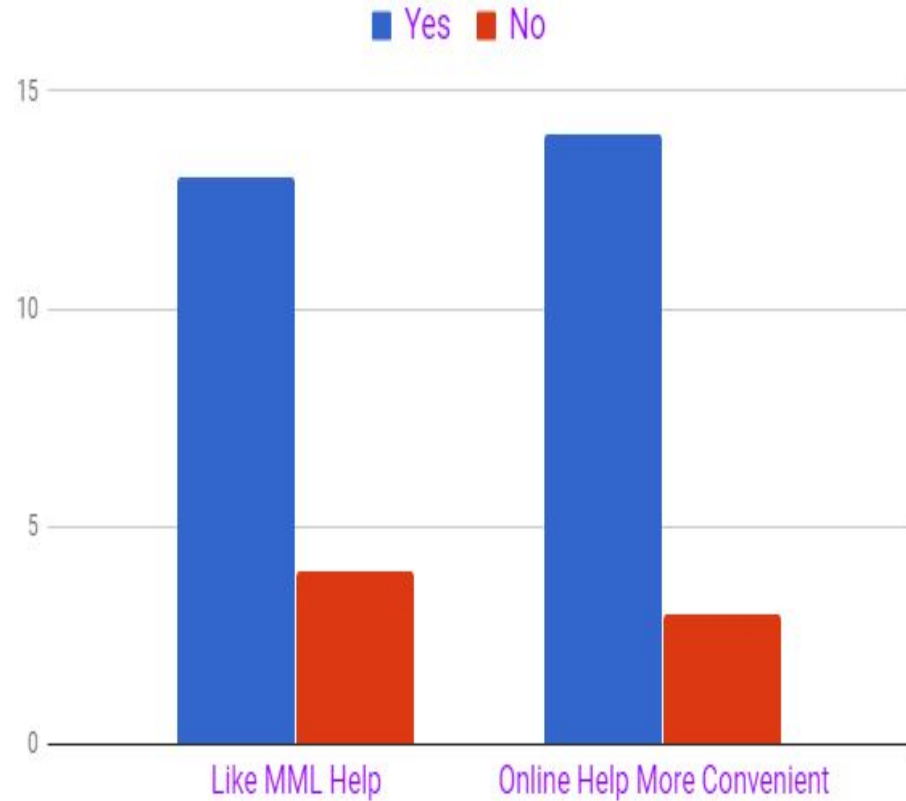


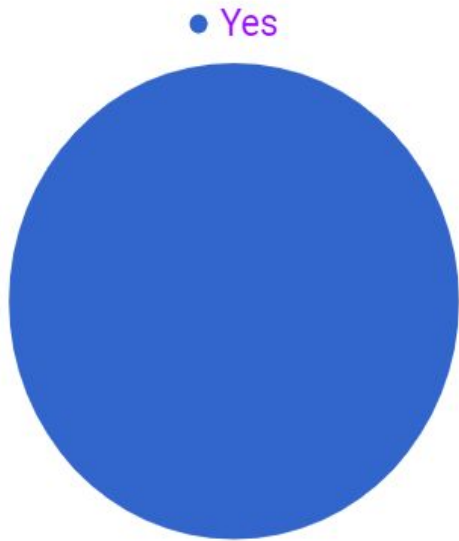
Further Commentary on Homework

“I have never been a good test taker.”

“Everyone learns differently.”

Why did they choose to pay more for Online HW?





Was being given
a choice helpful/
appropriate?

Please Explain.

“My grades are important to me. This option gave me the adult choice to take charge of my learning”

“Everyone is different and learns things in different ways”

“...Sometimes, I can be extremely busy and may want to just take a test.”

Did the students who chose to do homework make higher grades?

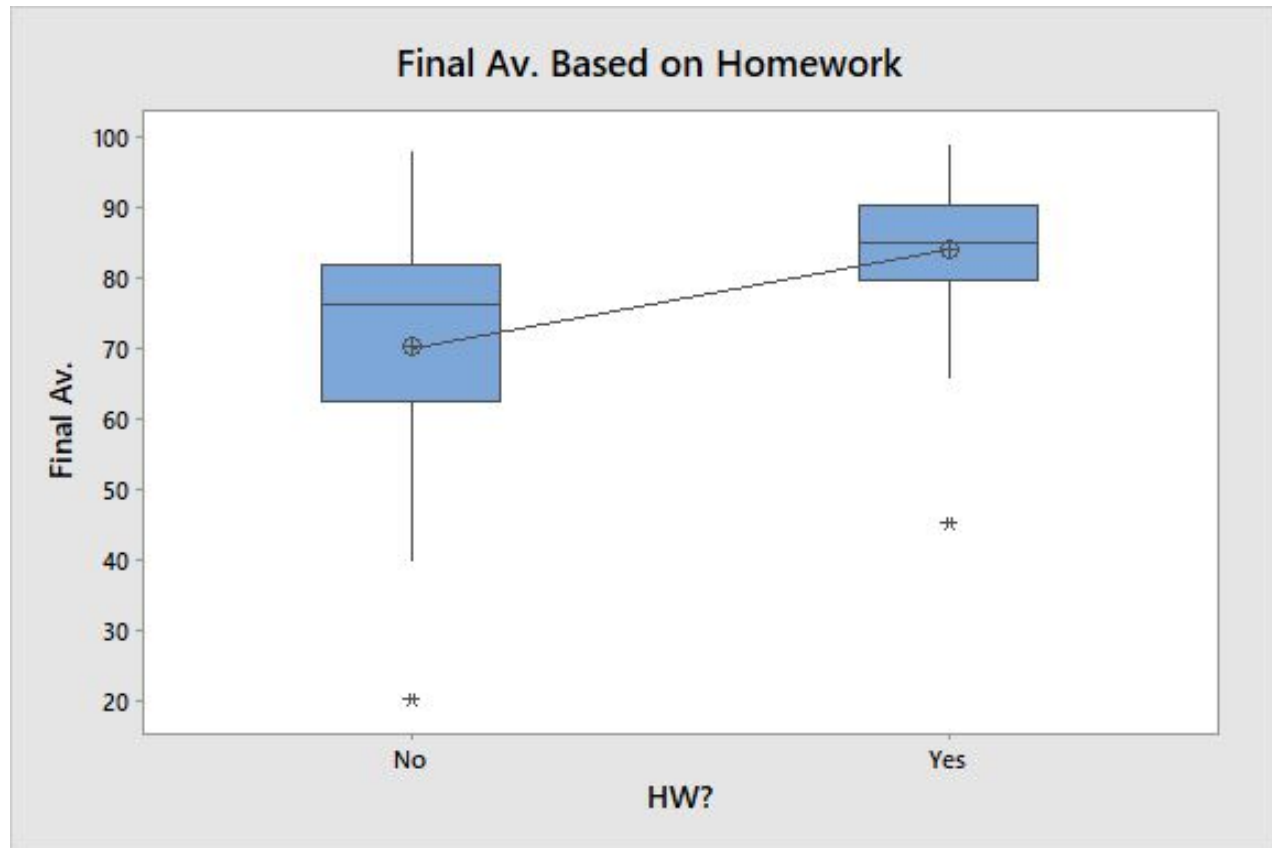
Quantitative Literacy Class? - No; The weaker, less confident students were more likely to choose graded homework.

Precalculus? - No; See above

Calculus I and II? - Nearly everyone chose to do the homework.

Intro. Stats? - Yes! We finally got the results you were expecting.

Intro Stats Grades based on HW Choice



Thanks for listening!

Any Questions?