

Re: PROGRAMMING HOMEWORK HELP!

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.programming/2004-03/2197.html>

From: Michael Mendelsohn (*keine.Werbung.1300_at_michael.mendelsohn.de*)

Date: 03/27/04

Date: Sat, 27 Mar 2004 14:17:02 +0100

Darrell Grainger schrieb:

- > *Homework is how a student proves to the school that they understand the*
- > *concepts they have been taught. If you do their homework for them, they*
- > *are proving that you understand the concepts that have been taught.*

This is true only if the homework is graded.

Homework should be a set of exercises that teach the student how to apply the theoretical skills aquired through the lecture.

Grading homework is a two-edged sword:

While it increases student's motivation to do the practical work and makes his grade for the course easier to predict (and not depend so much on the performance in the few minutes of a single examination), it provides strong incentive for the student not completing his homework himself if he feels doing so would merit a weak grade.

Thus the requirements of learning and examining are contradictory.

It is especially hard to pace a programming course, as some students with previous programming background will find the exercises easy, while others find them hard. Cheating on the assignments can provide an opportunity to be ensured a passing grade (and thus avoid the necessity of halting one's other education for a year); a responsible student will then use this opportunity to learn programming at his/her own pace.

Should one demand morality of students in the face of an unfair system?

In earlier decades, one would have argued that this provided incentive to stand up and protest and change the system, but given today's climate, this idea seems impractical.

Michael

--

Feel the stare of my burning hamster and stop smoking!