1. ***Introduction***

**Attention-Getter:** School systems should reduce the amount of learning time in a student’s day, and that’s not just so kids can sit at home and watch Netflix all day.

**Necessary Background:** About five hours of a student’s day are spent on extracurriculars and homework. Add in two hours to shower, eat dinner, and come home from school. Many families with children in school complain about not having enough time to complete chores, finish school assignments, participate in extracurriculars, and spend time with one another. However, many parents support the current times so that classes have enough time to teach all the materials.

**Thesis:** The amount of learning time in a student’s day should be reduced to allow students to develop healthy relationships with friends and family and to give them enough homework time.

1. ***Body Paragraphs***

**Claim 1:** The amount of learning time in a student’s school day should be reduced so that they have more time to complete homework.

**Warrants:**

**a.)** Alfie Kohn, the author of the book The Homework Myth, says homework is “all pain and no gain.” Mr. Kohn says, “The disadvantages of homework are clear to everyone: exhaustion, frustration, loss of time to pursue other interests and often diminution of interest in learning. Homework may be the greatest extinguisher of curiosity ever invented.” *This supports the idea that homework interferes with the interests of students and is often frustrating, so shortening school hours will give students more time to work through it.* (“Goodbye to Homework for Some Elementary Schools and Classes” by Lisa Rahtke)

**b.)** Gary Buckberry is a school board member in Michigan. He states,” It’s not just homework. It manifests itself in youth athletics, extracurricular activities… We leave no unoccupied time in their day.” *Shortening the school day would give kids more time to relax and rest their brains before the next school day. It would allow kids to complete homework before extracurriculars.* (“The Problem with Homework” by Beth Frerking)

**c.)** Mary Carlson, principal at Marlborough High School, reported that results show that 16% of her students have considered suicide, and another 70% said they are stressed out. *More time to work on homework after school would give students time to relax and calm down after stressful school days. This could reduce suicide rates.* (“Reasons and Solutions: Why Students Need Shorter Days”)

**Impact:** One day you will most likely have kids of your own, and you may currently be a young student yourself. Nobody wants to endure the stress of a late night of studying, and reducing the amount of time spent at school would help with this.

**Claim 2:** The amount of learning time in the average day of a student should be reduced because it would give students more time to build relationships with family and friends.

**Warrants:**

**a.)** Stanford professor Denise Pope talked to Today on the topic of school hours, and she said,” Kids are not going to give up their extracurriculars, but then they are stuck with all this homework, so the things that get left out are actually really important things like chores, family time, and sleep.” If a teacher or professor see hands-on that family time is being cut off by school work, then we know that the children of our society are being mentally and behaviorally impacted. (“How Much Homework Is Too Much?” by Sarah Caspari)  
**b.)** In a study by two Toronto professors, more than 1,000 parents were surveyed. The responses showed that while they liked the good work habits promoted by homework, the amount students are receiving is interfering with family time, play time, is causing stress and creates marital troubles. Reducing school time would give kids the ability to develop good work habits, but it would give them enough time to rest, which would reduce stress and issues at home or school.

**Impact:**

1. **Counterclaim:**

**Rebuttal:**

**Counterclaim:**

**Rebuttal:**

1. ***Conclusion***