**Write an essay on the following prompt.**

The data from a survey of high school math and science teachers show that in the district of Sanlee many of these teachers reported assigning daily homework, whereas in the district of Marlee, most science and math teachers reported assigning homework no more than two or three days per week. Despite receiving less frequent homework assignments, Marlee students earn better grades overall and are less likely to be required to repeat a year of school than are students in Sanlee. These results call into question the usefulness of frequent homework assignments. Most likely the Marlee students have more time to concentrate on individual assignments than do the Sanlee students who have homework every day. Therefore, teachers in our high schools should assign homework no more than twice a week.

**Write a response in which you examine the stated and/or unstated assumptions of the argument. Be sure to explain how the argument depends on these assumptions and what the implications are for the argument if the assumptions prove unwarranted.**

The writer of the argument recommends that teachers should not assign more than twice a week to students in high schools; however, this recommendation cannot be accepted as it is in that it rests on a number of premises all of which can be questioned in one way or another.

The first problem with the argument is that the writer refers to a survey but does not indicate how many teachers took part in the survey reported. As you know, in research studies the more sample size would have, the more reliable and valid the findings are. Maybe in this study only seven teachers among one million total teachers in the district of Sanlee participated; hence, the results of such a survey neither reliable nor valid. Even if it is assumed that enough teachers took part in the study, there is still another problem with the sample. In a research study, the results can be generalized to the target population if the sample used is representative of the concerned population. However, in this argument there is no evidence to show whether the sample used was representative of the target population. Maybe the number of teachers in both Sanlee and Marlee taking part in a study were all the men with undergraduate level; however, the target population who was intended included women with graduated level because in this sample there were no women with that level of study. In follows that the findings cannot be generalized to the target population without reservations.

Another problem with the argument is that the writer assumes that Marlee students earned better grades and less failed because they receive fewer homework assignments than Sanlee students. Nevertheless, there is no evidence to prove this claim. Maybe Marlee students are intelligent ones, and they are more diligent students than Sanlee students. In fact, Marlee students study their lesson so diligently that their scores are almost better than Sanlee students. Or maybe Marlee high school's teachers get better scores to their students than Sanlee teachers. Moreover, Sanlee teachers are more severe, and they believe that getting high scores can make students weaker. So, they never get upper than 15 to their students. In contrast, Marlee teachers believe that getting high scores to students encourage them to study more. Hence, grads overall become higher than Sanlee students.

A third problem with the argument is that the writer assumes that Marlee students have more time to focus on their individual assignments than Sanlee students because Sanlee students receive homework assignments every day. On the other hand, there is no robust evidence to confirm this claim. Maybe Marlee high schools' time every day is less than Sanlee high schools. Furthermore, Marlee high schools closed at 2 p.m.; however, Sanlee high schools closed at 5 p.m.; therefore, Marlee students have more time each day to handle their schedules, and they become free from schools earlier than Sanlee students.

To wrap it up, the writer's recommendation cannot be taken to be correct because, as it was shown in the body paragraphs above, it depends on a number of premises each of which is questionable. The recommendation can only be accepted if the weaknesses already referred to all removed.