



# The Effects of Ungraded Homework on Student Learning and Homework Completion Rates in a High School Biology Classroom

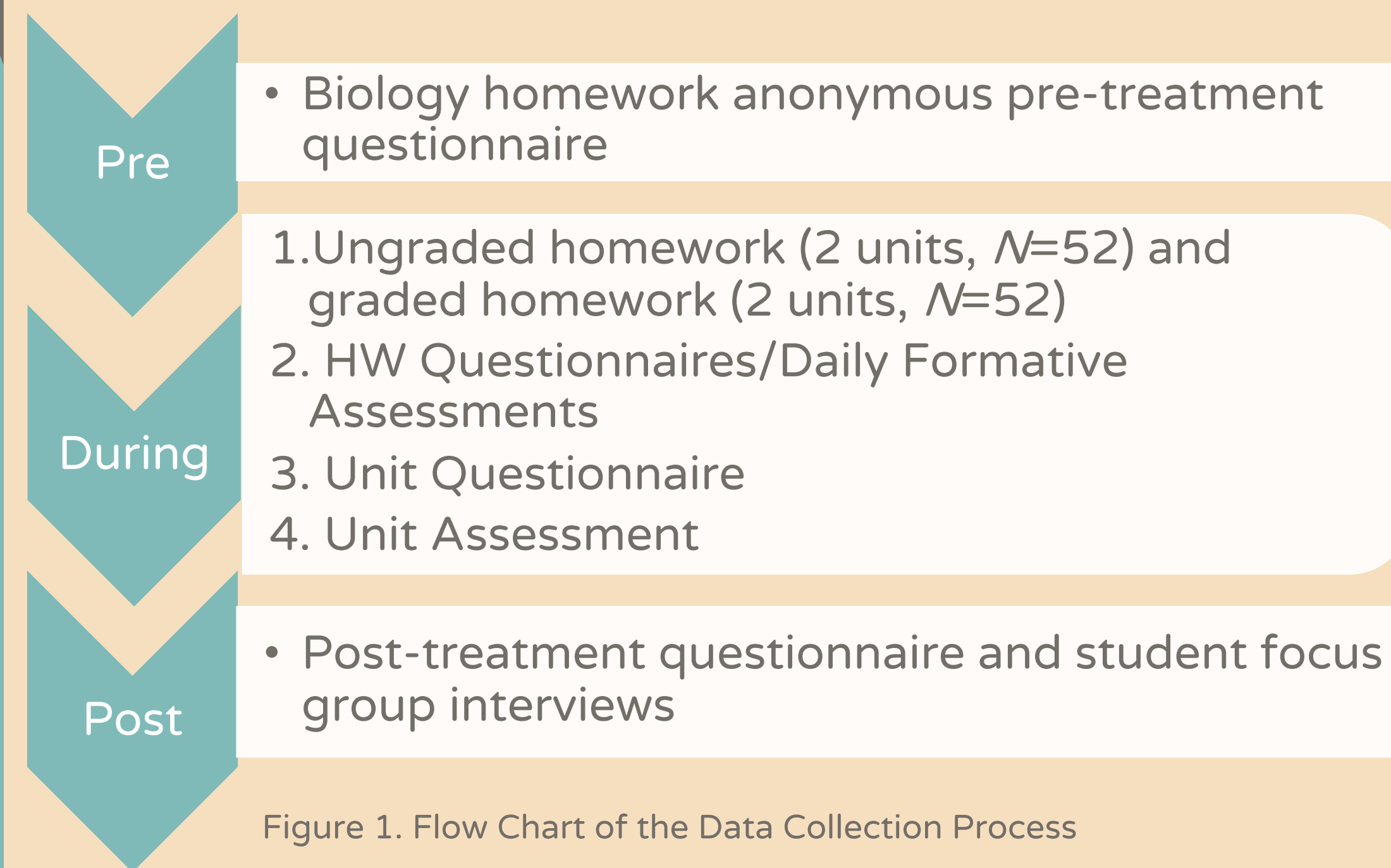
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## Background

- I teach 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders Biology at a small public high school in coastal California.
- The study includes 52-9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade biology students
- As a school site, we are evaluating our grading practices to ensure they are equitable
- Stakeholders question the efficacy and equity of graded homework
- Study period - October 2022-January 2023

## Methodology



## Conclusions

1. Students' mean scores on unit assessments with ungraded homework were lower, suggesting that graded homework may be beneficial for some students.
2. Most students find points in the gradebook a motivator for homework completion.

### Considerations moving forward:

- Include homework in the gradebook, but as a zero weighted category.
- Continue to include homework in the gradebook and designate some homework assignments for points while other will be ungraded as review.

## Research Questions

### Primary Research Question:

To what extent does completing homework, without a grade or credit, affect student learning and homework completion rates?

**Sub-Question 1:** How does assigned, but not graded, homework affect at-risk students?

**Sub-Question 2:** To what extent does ungraded homework affect student achievement on daily formative assessments and confidence on unit assessments?

**Sub-Question 3:** In what ways does this impact me as a teacher?

## Data Analysis and Student Quotes

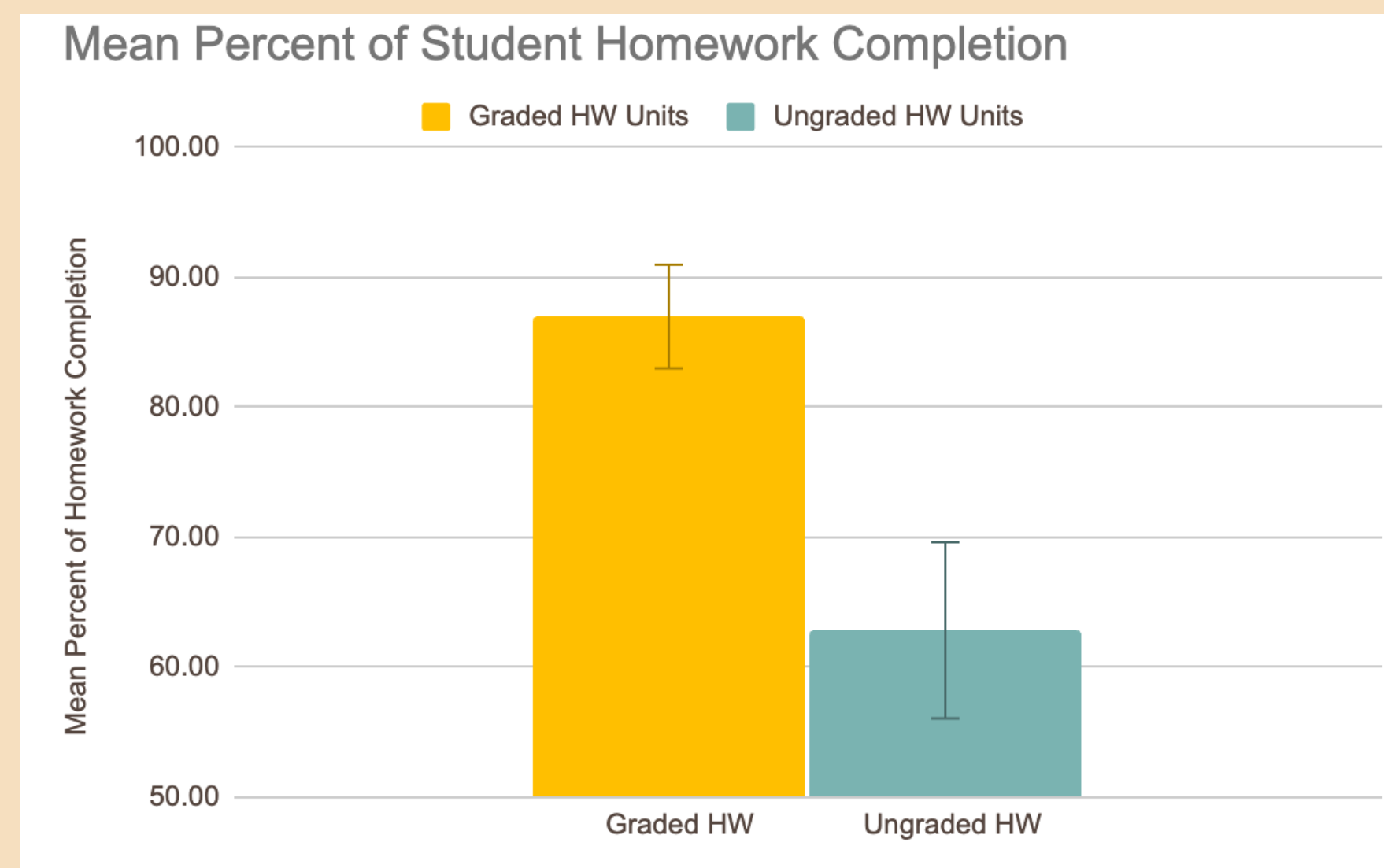


Figure 2. Mean HW completion percentage during the units with graded HW (N=52, number of items=546) compared to units with ungraded HW (N=52, number of items=693) with 2XSE bars.

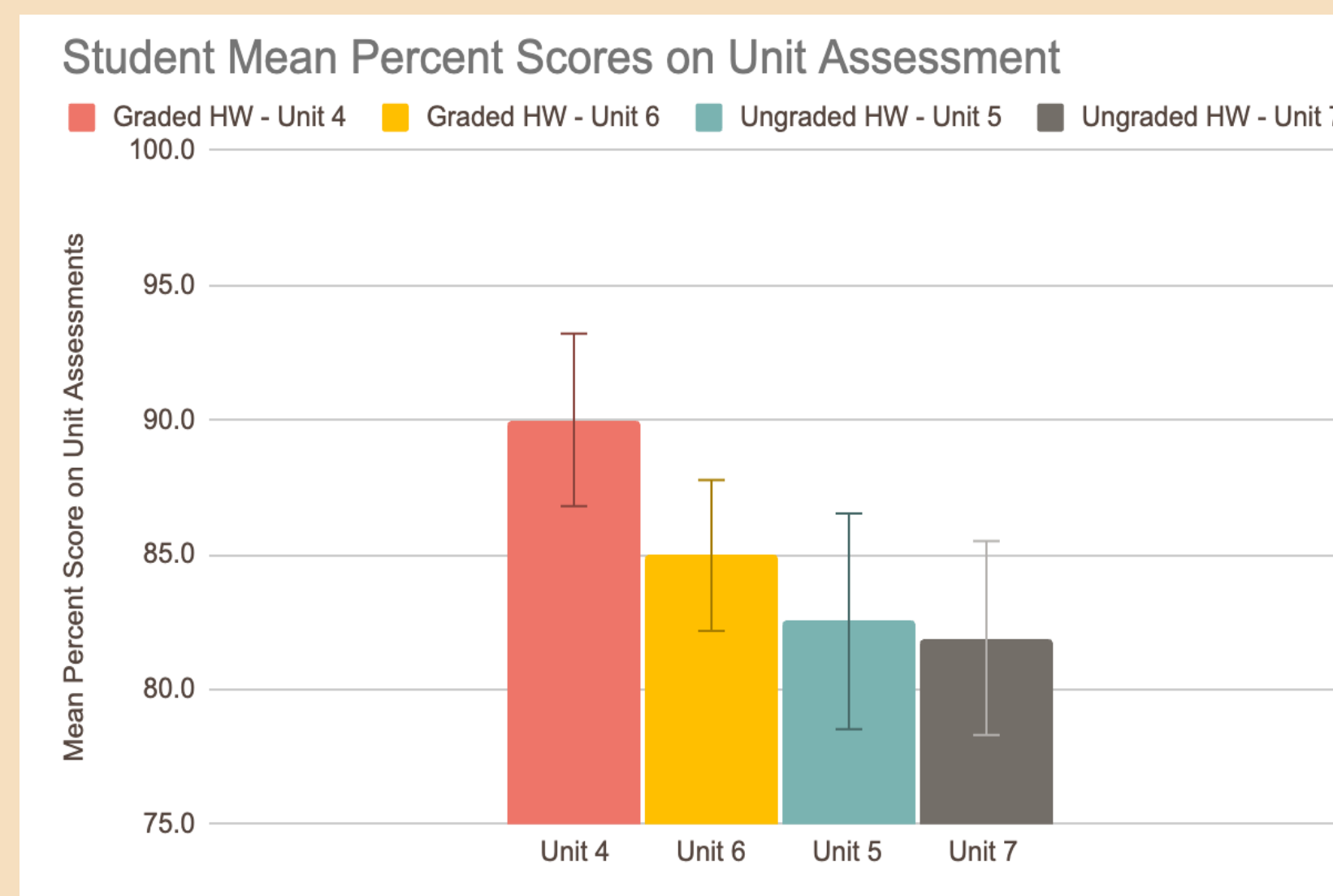


Figure 3. Mean percent score on unit assessment with graded HW compared to unit assessment with ungraded HW with 2XSE bars. (N=52).

“Homework should not affect the student's grade. If the student is already cognizant of the material and is confident about their knowledge of the material, they should not be penalized for not doing the assignment.”

“Personally, I like having graded homework, because a lot of times I need that extra pressure to get it completed.”