

So ... compared to the averages listed in the file, your test scores are a lot lower than your homework scores. Many times when I talk to kids about this combination, they'll say something about not being a good test taker. For some kids, that definitely could be the reason ... especially if you have the same problem in your other classes and have had it for years. However, some kids who have been describing themselves as poor test takers have absolutely nothing wrong with their test-taking abilities ... instead, it's a problem with their *test-preparing* abilities.

Read this and see if it sounds like you: you do a good job paying attention in class each day, and that turns into a good job doing your homework each day. When it's time to prepare for the test, you remember that your homework scores have all been good and that you've not had any real trouble with any of the lessons. As a result, you think that you've got it under control and that you won't need to study.

That's a bad idea, friend. Just because you did well last Tuesday doesn't mean that you're going to remember it next Friday ... especially with all that you've learned in between. While Rice tries to tie it all together for you so math doesn't seem like a bunch of separate, unrelated lessons, you still need to go back before quizzes and tests to make sure you're still as awesome as you used to be. When kids say "It all just got jumbled up in my head during the test," it's an indication that you're relying on your memory, not on your preparation. Unfortunately, you lose the right to say a test was hard or that you're not a good test taker if you don't take the time to prepare for it.

If you don't know how to study for a math test (or never knew that you could), you should check the next section of this site; there's a guide linked there that may be of use to you.

There is one more possibility as to why a kid's homework scores would be substantially higher than his test scores. It doesn't apply to a lot of kids, but I need to mention it anyway. Some kids look at this combination of scores as "my low test scores don't match my homework grade" ... but what if it's "my high homework grade doesn't match my test scores" instead? In other words, could it be that these scores are different because you've found a way to make your homework scores *higher than they truly should be*? Perhaps it's an outcome of well-meaning, but too much help from a friend or big brother on the homework ... help that's caused your homework grade to be higher than what you're really capable of on your own. Or, maybe it's not so well-meaning. If a kid never did his own homework, but instead turned in a copy of the homework of the kid he sits next to on the bus, can he really wonder why his test scores are so much lower than "his" homework grade?

In order to compare your homework performance to your test scores, we need to be sure that it's *your* homework performance. I know that situation doesn't apply to you (right?), but maybe it does for other kids.

Remember, these are just guesses about your status based on what has been true of a majority of kids in the past with the same combination of scores as yours. There could definitely be other reasons why your scores are in this combination. If you feel like you need to investigate it further, Rice would love to help you do that.