

STAAR Persuasive Essay Example – School Uniforms (Against)

English II - Edwards

Teenagers spend between six and eight hours in America's high schools sitting at their desks, listening to their teachers, and doing their school work (HOOK). In some schools, they are also required to dress in school uniforms (BRIDGE/ISSUE). Students should not be required to wear uniforms because they do not allow for a student's self-expression, and they are not affordable for parents (THESIS).

[First of all] school uniforms do not allow students to express themselves. [TOPIC SENTENCE] Teenagers are at an age where they are trying to establish their identity. (POINT 1) High school is typically a time when students begin to develop their own sense of personal style, desperately trying to both fit in and stand out. Being self-conscious and often lacking confidence, some teens use clothing and outward appearance to express this individuality. It is not fair to prevent them from exploring self-expression by making them wear uniforms. (ELABORATION) By taking away a student's right to choose what to wear, the opportunity to express oneself is taken away. (POINT 2) Clothes play an enormous role in that they, more so than makeup, jewelry, and accessories are able to reflect the inner thoughts, feelings, and attitudes of students. To entirely take away students' rights to choose what they wear is to remove an avenue through which they can express themselves. (ELABORATION) Mandating uniforms not only takes away a student's right to express themselves, but it also puts a burden on parents. [Transition to next argument]

[Additionally] uniforms are not affordable for families. [TOPIC SENTENCE] Requiring students to wear uniforms means that students must own uniforms. (POINT 1) With school budgets limited, the financial burden of buying uniforms will fall to the parents. Parents will no longer have a choice in the type of clothing they buy or the price they pay. Also, parents will have the added cost of purchasing clothes that their child wears outside of school. (ELABORATION) Furthermore uniforms become a more significant cost when parents have more than one child to buy for. (POINT 2) Because most parents have to buy a lot of necessities for their children on a daily basis, they are not left with extra money when it comes to school shopping. Uniforms will add heavily to the overall cost of a new school year and are just asking too much out the pockets of parents who work hard for the money they have. (ELABORATION) While others believe uniforms are affordable, their reasoning is wrong because school uniforms are costly and in today's up and down economy, they are an unnecessary added expense. [Opposing argument with final argument]

In conclusion, students should not be forced to wear uniforms because they do not allow for self-expression and they are not affordable. (RE-STATEMENT OF THESIS) There are already plenty of restrictions upon high school students, and mandating school uniforms would not be a helpful regulation. (CLINCHER, "REVERSE HOOK")

 = TRANSITIONS

STAAR Persuasive Essay Example – School Uniforms (For)

English II - Edwards

In schools today, there are problems that take the focus off education and make it more difficult for students to learn. **(HOOK)** School uniforms can eliminate the problems that arise and distract students from the main focus of school, their education. **(BRIDGE/ISSUE)** Students should wear school uniforms because it will help eliminate bullying and produce a more positive school environment. **(THESIS)**

First, one of the biggest concerns in schools is bullying. **[TOPIC SENTENCE]** Students are harassed physically, verbally, and socially. **POINT 1** Often, the cause of bullying stems from people being different for not wearing the “right” clothes. If someone looks richer, most people feel like they have a higher social status or more power. However, uniforms allow students to learn on a more level playing field, with less judgment about clothing choices, brands of clothing, or physical appearance. **EVIDENCE** Furthermore, school uniforms eliminate the cliques **(POINT 2)** that are formed according to a particular fashion and the negative self-image due to the lack of “in-style” clothes. **EVIDENCE** The feelings of being left out or not accepted by a clique could create a very distracting environment in school. **(TRANSITION TO NEXT ARGUMENT)**

Additionally, school uniforms will produce a more positive school environment. **[TOPIC SENTENCE]** School uniforms will increase focus therefore enhancing education. **POINT 1** Uniforms help sharpen students' focus on the task at hand, schoolwork. It will create structure and guidelines for the student to follow which is an aspect of life that a student needs to learn. **EVIDENCE** Also, school uniforms will create a sense of school unity, pride and spirit. **POINT 2** Wearing school colors gives students a feeling of being more connected to their school and classmates. If there is a sense of community and connectedness among the students, a more positive environment has been created. **EVIDENCE** While others believe that wearing uniforms suppresses individuality, their reasoning is wrong because wearing school uniforms can also help people gain more self-confidence because they are a part of something bigger. **(OPPOSITION/FINAL ARGUMENT)** School uniforms emphasize that the purpose of school is not to make a fashion statement but to learn. **TRANSITION TO CONCLUSION**

The benefits far outweigh the oppositions, and school uniforms should be considered as a means to the end. **(TRANSITION)** The problems that take the focus off education and make it more difficult for students to learn will all be dealt with positive results. **(REVERSE HOOK)** With the implementation of school uniforms, bullying will be eliminated and a more positive school environment will be created. **(RE-STATEMENT OF POSITION)**