

Persuasive Argument Assignment: School Uniforms

Writing Situation

In an effort to increase test scores, attendance, and graduation rates as well as to decrease school bullying, violence, and vandalism, the Vista Unified School District is considering adopting a policy that requires high school students to wear uniforms.

Pre-writing Activities

1. Create a list of pros and cons for this policy. You must have at least seven reasons for and seven reasons against adopting this policy.
2. Read and annotate two current articles that address this issue.
3. Informal class debate.

Writing Directions

Write a letter to the Vista Unified School District board of trustees encouraging them to either accept or reject a policy that requires high school students to wear uniforms.

Your letter must

- clearly state your position.
- provide and explain three well developed reasons for your argument.
- include two quotes from the articles to support your reasons (use MLA citations).
- address counter arguments.
- state what you want the school board trustees to do.

While your assignment is a letter, remember to organize it as if you were writing an essay. There should be an introduction, multiple body paragraphs, and a conclusion to your letter.

Remember your audience are educated adults who will be making a decision that will affect your lives, so write using an appropriate and professional tone.

Criteria

Your writing will be evaluated on your ability to

- organize a logical and persuasive argument. (50 points)
- address at least two counter arguments. (20 points)
- cite sources using the MLA format. (10 points)
- write using correct punctuation, capitalization, usage and sentence structure. (20 points)

Points

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Due Date</u>
Pro/Con List	20 Points	
2 Articles: Annotations	20 Points	
Draft written in class	25 Points	
Final Copy	50 Points	