

Argumentative Writing Samples
(Teacher Led with Evaluating Argumentative Writing Practice form)
(argumentative facts used by students are from ProCon.org)

Topic: Should students be required to wear school uniforms?

Sample level 1:

Students should not have to wear uniforms. Uniforms do not help test scores. They do not help students learn. Schools should not tell students what to wear.

Sample level 2:

Students should not have to wear school uniforms. First, a study from Virginia-Tech said that uniforms do not make attendance better, behavior better, or drug abuse less at school. Second, bullying still happens when students have to wear uniforms. Third, the school should not decide what children need to wear. That should be up to the parents. Uniforms do not make things better for schools or students. Uniforms should not be forced.

Sample level 3:

Students should not be forced to wear school uniforms. First of all, uniforms do not improve behaviors at school. A study out of Virginia-Tech found that uniforms did not improve the attendance of students, did not improve aggressive behaviors of students, and did not reduce substance abuse on campus. One of the arguments for uniforms is that it does all these things, but if studies find that uniforms do none of that, they are clearly pointless. Secondly, it said that uniforms will lessen bullying at schools, but studies out of Texas Southern University indicate that uniforms do not lessen bullying, in fact, it may increase bullying, which is the opposite of the goal. Thirdly, parents should be allowed to select what they buy for their children to wear to school. It is their money and clothing does not need to be decided by the schools. In general, uniforms do not help improve the behaviors of students, so they should not be mandatory.

Sample level 4:

Uniforms might be good for the military, but not for schools. There is no reason that schools should require students to wear uniforms at schools. Studies show that uniforms don't help with behavior, bullying problems in schools, or help low income students blend in. Since they don't help with some of the major problems in schools, there is no reason to wear them. Uniforms should not be required.

There are three main reasons uniforms should not be required in schools. First and foremost, uniforms do not help improve behaviors. One argument that they should be required is that they help prevent bad behaviors at school. This is found to not be true. Virginia-Tech did a study and found that uniforms did not improve student attendance, did not lessen aggressive behaviors such as fighting, and did not lessen the use of substance abuse at school. Secondly, another reason people say students should wear uniforms is that it lessens bullying at school. It turns out that uniforms do not lessen bullying; bullies are still bullies. In fact, a study out of Texas Southern University found that uniforms may increase bullying at schools. Thirdly, parents should be able to decide what their child will wear to school. An argument for uniforms is that they will prevent low income students from standing out if everyone has to wear the same thing. This is not the case. Students with money will wear designer shoes or an expensive jacket, have designer backpacks, and have accessories that make them stand out over a student that is low income. A uniform will not change that. Parents will provide what they can whether low income or wealthy.

Many say that uniforms make schools safer and more focused on academics. That is just not true according to some studies. Uniforms themselves do not make schools safer for students. Therefore, It does not make sense to make them mandatory. Let parents decide what their child can wear and let students wear what they are comfortable wearing.

Sample level 5:

There may have been a time when uniforms made sense for some schools, but not now. Schools should not have mandatory dress code policies that require students to wear uniforms at school. Uniforms don't make sense because studies show that uniforms don't help to improve behavior, help with bullying problems, or prevent students with money standing out in schools. Since they don't help with some of the major problems in schools, there is simply no reason to wear them. Uniforms should not be mandatory in school.

First and foremost, uniforms do not help improve behaviors in schools. One argument that they should be required is that they help prevent bad behaviors at school. This is found to not be true. Virginia-Tech did a study and found that uniforms did not

improve student attendance, did not lessen aggressive behaviors such as fighting, and did not lessen the use of substance abuse at school. If they are meant to improve behavior and don't, then there is clearly no need for them.

Secondly, bullying is not lessened by the wearing of uniforms in schools. One reason people say students should wear uniforms is that it lessens bullying at school. It turns out that uniforms do not lessen bullying; bullies are still bullies. In fact, a study out of Texas Southern University found that uniforms may increase bullying in schools. Unfortunately, there is plenty of bullying to go around in schools. If there is any chance that uniforms would increase that, it is an easy choice to not have students wear them.

Thirdly, parents should be able to decide what their child will wear to school. An argument for uniforms is that they will prevent low income students from standing out if everyone has to wear the same thing. The argument goes on to say that uniforms will allow students to focus solely on academics. This is not the case. Students with money can still wear designer shoes or an expensive jacket, have designer backpacks, and have accessories that make them stand out over a student that is low income. Parents will provide what they can whether low income or wealthy. A uniform will not change that.

Simply put, the arguments that say that uniforms are necessary and will improve the environment in the schools, are not true. Uniforms do not make schools safer and more focused on academics. Uniforms do not stop bullying in schools. Wealthy students will continue to stand out due to the accessories that can be worn with a uniform. Therefore, it just does not make sense to make uniforms mandatory. Let parents decide what their child can wear and let students wear what they are comfortable wearing. Do not force uniforms on students.

ProCon.org, "History of School Uniforms." ProCon.org. 3 May 2021,
school-uniforms.procon.org/history-of-school-uniforms