I'm not a bot

Should public schools have school uniforms? This question has been discussed for many years. Usually, students are strongly against this policy. First of all, they explain this by the fact that the school uniform violates their rights, it prevents them from freely expressing their personality and showing their identity. However, I think school uniforms are good. Wearing a school uniform has a number of advantages that I want to highlight in my essay. The first reason why school uniforms are good is that they help not to judge students by their clothes. This eliminates comparing each other for what they wear based on their family income. As a result, it promotes equality. Moreover, it prevents financial violence and stops gang activity. Save your time!We can take care of your essay Proper editing and formatting Free revision, title page, and bibliography Flexible prices and money-back guarantee Place an order Second, it is very affordable. Wearing a school uniform will help you save money on important needs, as you will not need to buy more clothes for everyday wear. And most importantly, it will save you time that is usually spent on shopping for new clothes. Thirdly, I believe that the school uniform creates a strong school spirit. The school uniform represents the school. In addition, a student is 'identified' by his uniform, and if he is not wearing a uniform, it will be difficult to identify him. Finally, the school uniform makes the school more organized because the students wear appropriate clothes, otherwise, there will be a lot of mess and a lot of different colors and clothes that are not suitable for school. Moreover, it also requires less monitoring for the staff on a daily basis and every child would look nice while representing their school. From my point of view, introducing a policy of wearing school uniforms on a mandatory basis is absolutely the right decision. Every school should have a school uniform because it represents the school and makes it strong. This helps to identify the student. In addition, it is affordable from a financial point of view. And the last point, which is the strongest in my opinion, it forces the student not to judge others by their appearance; in fact, he can't stop pulling, but it reduces and makes the student feel comfortable. And while most students feel that school uniforms prevent them from expressing who they are through the way they dress, because they have to wear the same clothes as their peers, I still believe that this policy is the right one. Did you like this example? Why School Uniforms Are Good: Persuasive Essay. (2023, October 26). Edubirdie. Retrieved May 27, 2025, from “Why School Uniforms Are Good: Persuasive Essay.” Edubirdie, 26 Oct. 2023, hub.edubirdie.com/examples/why-school-uniforms-are-good-persuasive-essay/ Why School Uniforms Are Good: Persuasive Essay. [online]. Available at: < [Accessed 27 May 2025]. Why School Uniforms Are Good: Persuasive Essay [Internet]. Edubirdie. 2023 Oct 26 [cited 2025 May 27]. Available from: Get original paper written according to your instructions Save time for what matters most Place an order Fair Use Policy EduBirdie considers academic integrity to be the essential part of the learning process and does not support any violation of the academic standards. Should you have any questions regarding our Fair Use Policy or become aware of any violations, please do not hesitate to contact us via support@edubirdie.com. Your May Resources Explore this month’s stories, lessons, videos, and more. Your April Resources Your March Resources Your February Resources Your December/January Resources November Resources Your October Resources Your September Resources Pacing Guide Setting Up Student View 2024-2025 Editorial Calendar How Students and Families Can Log In Sharing Articles with Your Students Interactive Activities Sharing Videos with Students Using Scope in Your LMS Join Our Facebook Group! Check back soon for more announcements and tutorials. Divide students into groups according to which author they think makes the best argument. Have the groups stand on opposite sides of the room. Students should then debate: One student offers a reason (support) for his or her opinion; a student from the other group responds. Students should quietly switch sides if at any point during the debate they change their position on the issue; be sure to ask any student who does this why he or she did so. Encourage students to use evidence to support their opinions. At the end of the debate, compare the number of students who support each author with the number who supported each author before the debate. Last Updated: 16 August 2024 | Blog Author: Eddard Theroux School uniforms are a hotly contested debate, which makes it a controversial topic preferred for school essays. Even though writing a school uniform essay should be easy, students' confessions after being assigned both long and short essays on school uniform show mixed results. Most students who have been given an essay on school uniforms have highlighted it as exciting and tricky. Well, to write an essay that will score you an excellent grade, you need to understand your perspective, viewpoint, or stand before writing. As yourself, whether you will support school uniforms or you will be against them in your essay. In most cases, the essay can be argumentative where you argue either for or against, then proceed to state your stand on whether or not you support school uniforms in learning institutions. You can also write an informative essay or a persuasive school uniform essay. This article covers some aspects to consider when writing such an essay, some suitable topics, and general advice on how to write an outstanding school uniforms essay. How to begin a School Uniforms Essay You aim to demystify the school uniforms debate. Therefore, you need to strategize on how to begin the essay. Like other essays, starting with an essay hook would make it interesting to the readers. After the hook, head straight to writing some background information on school uniforms. You can then incorporate a thesis statement that presents your central stance on the paper. Here is a sample school uniform hook: A recent study by North Dakota State University revealed that an average American household spends close to 3.8% of their income on clothing, translating to approximately $2000 annually per household. The hook above is essential when you argue from a cost perspective where you say that school uniforms save families from expenditures on buying different clothes for kids, which equalizes the rich and poor households. In your background, you can try reference instances when school uniforms have stirred public debates. Inform your reader about these debates and highlight the key issues you will handle in your essay. At the end of the introduction paragraph, state your thesis statement. What goes to the body of a school uniform essay? With the introduction done, you now need to develop the body paragraphs. As a general rule, always maintain a single idea per paragraph. If you are doing your essay in a five-paragraph essay format, ensure that the body of your essay takes 80% of the total word count while the introduction and the conclusion each take 10%. Here are some key ideas you can incorporate in the body of your essay: Explain the essence of having school uniforms on students, teachers, and learning institutions. Issues such as security and safety, uniformity, and promoting togetherness or unity as benefits. It is easy to spot a student in uniform. School uniforms also enforce some self-respect and self-worth among students. As well, uniforms foster a sense of belonging among students. Explore the issue from a cost-saving perspective for the parents. Unlike having different clothes daily, having a few pieces of school uniforms reduces the expenditure per household. Connect school uniforms to issues such as creativity, comfort, and affordability. Lack of funds, for instance, can hinder some families from sending their children to school as they have no school uniforms. You can also present the pros and cons of school uniforms Connect the school uniforms to identity formation School uniforms equalize students, which boosts their self-confidence School uniform makes students not be imaginative In the end, present recommendations that can solve the school uniform quagmire in schools Like any other essay, ensure that your essay about school uniforms is engaging. Take a multi-stakeholder approach if you are recommending a policy. If you have real-life examples of how school uniforms are beneficial, present them to support your body paragraphs. As you strive to present your viewpoints, ensure that each paragraph transitions to the next paragraph. If possible, benchmark your arguments on schools that have successfully implemented school uniforms. How to end an essay on school uniform Like the introduction, the conclusion of your essay matters a lot. It can be the only place a marker checks to know what your stance was when writing your school uniforms essay. Let your readers know whether school uniforms are good or not. Do not just stop there explore the why and why not for each of your points. If there are recommendations, especially if you were writing an essay based on a school uniforms case study, present them in the conclusion. DO not introduce new ideas that are not in your essay. However, crystalize and relate to your thesis and make sure your readers enjoy your essay to the last dot. Sample School Uniforms Essay Topics School uniform essays differ in perspective or stance, which hugely depends on the choice of topic. We can advise you to choose a school essay topic that has practical points and one that you can support with evidence from scholarly literature. Is school uniform a good thing? The importance of school uniforms Should students wear uniforms? Pros and Cons of school uniforms The negative impacts of school uniforms Rhetorical analysis of school uniforms Positive effects of school uniforms Are school uniforms a dress for success? Why schools should have uniforms History of school dress code School uniforms in private and public schools Should all schools have the same uniform? Are school uniforms necessary? School uniforms and diversity School uniforms and student discipline Comparison of school uniforms in U.S. and Japan School Uniforms Essay Check List With your essay written, ensure that it ticks most if not all these lists of facts that make a school uniform score great grades. Does the essay have a great hook? Is the background of your introduction relatable to the selected topic? Does the introduction have supporting facts from scholarly sources? Does your introduction have a clear thesis statement? Is the main idea clearly illustrated in the body? Does each body paragraph have an idea of its own? Does the essay have transition words for effective flow? Does the body discuss important concepts? Is the body paragraph having an opening sentence, facts, and closing sentence? Has all borrowed information been cited? Does the essay have strong evidence? Is the essay grammatically correct? Is the conclusion a summary of the argument? Has the thesis been restated? Is the conclusion flowing with the body of the essay? Has the essay used formal language? Are the sentences free from unnecessary words? Is the grammar and spelling in the essay correct? Are the references correct? Are the references recent? Are the sources used credible? Does the essay have a title and reference page? Sample Argumentative Essay on Should Students Wear School Uniforms Disclaimer – DO NOT COPY this sample essay. It is meant to help you see how you can present your essay ideas given your perspective/viewpoint. Submitting any part of this essay as your own might land you in trouble. We will not be in any way be a party to such consequences. If you need a model essay based on your selected topic for research purposes, please place an order or contact our support team for assistance with outlines, potential references, and some ideas on writing an excellent essay on school uniforms. Numerous debates have been carried out on whether students should wear uniforms or not. Parents, teachers, students, and school administrations have all given their views on school uniforms with different arguments and opinions on all sides. Supporters of school uniforms argue that school uniforms are essential as they give students an identity and foster discipline, while others argue that uniforms are annoying, uncomfortable, and lack creativity. Regardless of the position one takes on students wearing uniforms, it is clear that uniforms are an essential part of students, and students wearing uniforms is more advantageous to both the students and schools. Thus, all students should wear uniforms as the uniforms instill a sense of discipline and identity, erase differences between the students, and are less costly (thesis statement) School uniforms eliminate the differences between students in regard to their social and economic backgrounds (School uniforms promote equality). Schools have students from different social and economic backgrounds. The school environment has students from both poor and rich families. Hence, uniforms are important as they are modest and identical clothing that propagate a sense of equality among the students (Freeburg and Workman, 6). Accordingly, all students should wear school uniforms to avoid a situation where some students feel inadequate for being able to afford expensive clothing like their more affluent counterparts. A learning environment and education, in general, are supposed to bridge the social-economic differences that exist in society. Parents can save much money that would otherwise go to buying a wide variety of school clothes for their children (school uniforms save parents money spent on clothing). School uniforms provide a cheaper and more consistent alternative to regular clothing. If students are allowed to wear regular clothing to school, parents and guardians have to buy clothes that are in line with the latest fashion trends and the individual tastes of their children, both of which can be expensive. In this case, students should wear school uniforms that are affordable and identical to save parents money that can be used for more important things (Baumann and Krskova 1003). Affordability is essential for parents considering the enormous expenses associated with bringing up children in the modern era. Therefore, all students should wear uniforms as uniforms protect the financial interest of the parents and guardians. Wearing school uniforms saves teachers, students, and administrators valuable time (Bringing in the time-saving perspective of school uniforms). Without uniforms, teachers and schools, administrators spend significant amounts of time regulating the dress code. For instance, time wasted deciding which clothes are appropriate, what skirt-size is too short, among other issues that arise in regulating regular clothes to make appropriate for the school environment (Ruggerone 573). Such challenges would not exist if all students wore uniforms. Consequently, students also waste valuable time because of the distractions that might be caused by clothes that their peers are wearing. Therefore, to eliminate time wastage and distractions in school, students should wear uniforms. According to individuals and parties who oppose school uniforms, the uniforms limit the personal expression of students and can forcibly define gender roles for the children as girls have to wear skirts and boys’ trousers (school uniforms stifle independence and creativity) - COUNTERARGUMENT. People express themselves through their clothes, which means that forcing students to wear uniforms affects their personal expressions (Masuch and Hefferon 227). Additionally, uniforms are gender-specific, which means that they can negatively impact the personalities of students as they are forced to wear uniforms that they do not feel reflect what they want to be or do with their lives. Thus, as the proponents against school uniforms argue, uniforms should be eliminated as they infringe on the independence of young students. To sum up, there are numerous arguments that either support or oppose the wearing of uniforms by students. Supporters of school uniforms claim that uniforms give students a sense of identity and discipline, enhance social and economic equality, and save costs. On the other side, proponents against school uniforms claim that school uniforms limit the personal expression of students and force them into specified gender roles. Judging from the advantages and disadvantages of uniforms, it is clear that all students should wear uniforms as they distinguish students from civilians and enhance equality in the school environment. References Baumann, Chris, and Hana Krskova. "School discipline, school uniforms, and academic performance." International Journal of Educational Management 30.6 (2016): 1003-1029. Freeburg, Beth W., and Jane E. Workman. "Dress Codes and Uniforms." Encyclopedia of Adolescence (2016): 1-13. Masuch, Christoph-Simon, and Kate Hefferon. "Understanding the links between positive psychology and fashion: A grounded theory analysis." International Journal of Fashion Studies 1.2 (2014): 227-246. Ruggerone, Lucia. "The feeling of being dressed: Affect studies and the clothed body." Fashion Theory 21.5 (2017): 573-593. Order Custom Written Model Argumentative Essay Wearing uniforms makes you look more formal. Schools should require students to wear uniforms to match the school scenario. It doesn’t sound right to have students wearing clothes that are not appropriate for school. Requiring students to wear uniforms will cost less money for the parents, reduce bullying, and reduce disciplines in schools. Why spend so much money to look good in school? Parents spend plenty of money from their salary to buy clothing for their kids. If the school requires students to wear uniforms parents will not have to spend so much money. You would probably only need to buy five uniforms for the whole school year. Wash your uniforms every weekend and wear them again. If you are not able to was your uniforms every weekend you can buy more uniforms rather than buying those thirty to forty dollar jeans. Bullying occurs everywhere now. There is bullying at school, online, at the mall, and etc. One of the reason there is bullying at school is because of what students where. Some students cannot afford to wear expensive clothing and some can. Many students who can afford expensive clothing bully the ones that can’t. Schools can put a stop to that by requiring all students to wear uniforms. Teachers should spend more of their time helping students not watching students in detention. One reason why students serve detention is associated with what they wear. Girls like to wear very short skirts and shirts that expose parts of their body. Boys like to wear baggy jeans that expose a part of them. If uniforms were required girls and boys at school would not be able to wear inappropriate clothing and they would serve less detention. Schools need to require students to wear uniforms because it will cost less money, stop or prevent some bullying, and reduce disciplines. Wearing uniforms benefits schools, students, and parents. Parents will be able to buy more educational stuff for their kids. Schools would be able to prevent suicide. Students would not have to serve detention, In School Suspension, or Out School Suspension. Standardized outfit worn by students of an educational institution The examples and perspective in this article deal primarily with the United States and do not represent a worldwide view of the subject. You may improve this article, discuss the issue on the talk page, or create a new article, as appropriate. (July 2023) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Students in school uniforms A school uniform is a uniform worn by students primarily for a school or otherwise an educational institution.[1] They are common in primary and secondary schools in various countries and are generally widespread in Africa, Asia, Oceania, the British Isles and much of the Americas, but are not common in the United States, Canada, and most countries in continental Europe. An example of a uniform would be requiring button-down shirts, trousers for boys, and blouses and pleated skirts for girls, with both wearing blazers. A uniform can even be as simple as requiring collared shirts, or restricting colour choices and limiting items students are allowed to wear. Three students in Indonesia wearing uniforms Although often used interchangeably, there is an important difference between dress codes and school uniforms: according to scholars such as Nathan Joseph, clothing can only be considered a uniform when it "(a) serves as a group emblem, (b) certifies an institution's legitimacy by revealing individual's relative positions and (c) suppresses individuality."[2] Conversely, a dress code is much less restrictive, and focuses "on promoting modesty and discouraging anti-social fashion statements", according to Marian Wilde.[3] Examples of a dress code would be not allowing ripped clothing, no logos or limiting the amount of skin that can be shown. Schoolgirls in Japanese Taiwan, 1927 It is difficult to trace the origins of the uniform as there is no comprehensive written history, but rather a variety of known influences. School uniforms are believed to be a practice which dates to the 16th century in the United Kingdom. It is believed that the Christ's Hospital School in England in 1552 was the first school to use a school uniform.[4] Students were given a uniform that most notably consisted of a long blue coat and yellow, knee-high socks.[5] An almost identical uniform is still worn by students attending the school today.[5] The earliest documented proof of institutionalized use of a standard academic dress dates back to 1222 when the then Archbishop of Canterbury ordered the wearing of the cappa clausa.[6] This monastic and academic practice evolved into collegiate uniforms in England, particularly in charity schools where uniform dress was often provided for poor children. Universities, primary schools and secondary schools used uniforms as a marker of class and status.[7] Although school uniforms can often be considered conservative and old-fashioned, uniforms in recent years have changed as societal dress codes have changed.[8] Kindergarten schoolboy in Ghana wearing a school uniform In the United States, a movement toward using uniforms in state schools began when Bill Clinton addressed it in the 1996 State of the Union, saying: "If it means that teenagers will stop killing each other over designer jackets, then our public schools should be able to require their students to wear uniforms."[9] As of 1998 approximately 25% of all U.S. public elementary, middle and junior high schools had adopted a uniform policy or were considering a policy, and two-thirds were implemented between 1995 and 1997.[10] New York City's then-new schools chancellor, Rudy Crew, made it clear that he would not follow Clinton's idea.[11] There is an abundance of theories and empirical studies looking at school uniforms, making statements about their effectiveness. These theories and studies elaborate on the benefits and also the shortcomings of uniform policies. The issue of nature vs. nurture comes into play, as uniforms affect the perceptions of masculinity and femininity, over-simplify issues of gender classification, and attempt to suppress students' sexuality.[12] Uniforms bring a variety of pros, cons, and major legal implications and controversies. There are two main empirical findings that are most often cited in the political rhetoric surrounding the uniform debate. One of these, the case study of the Long Beach Unified School District, is most often cited in support of school uniforms and their effectiveness whereas Effects of Student Uniforms on Attendance, Behavior Problems, Substance Use, and Academic Achievement is the most frequently cited research in opposition to the implementation of school uniform policies. In many Japanese schools, students take off their outdoor shoes and wear uwabaki, an indoor soft slipper. The case study of the Long Beach Unified School District was the study of the first large, urban school in the United States to implement a uniform policy. In 1994, mandatory school uniforms were implemented for the districts elementary and middle schools as a strategy to address the students' behavior issues. The district simultaneously implemented a longitudinal study to research the effects of the uniforms on student behavior. The study attributed favorable student behavioral changes and a significant drop in school discipline issues to the mandatory uniform policy. Wearing school uniforms was associated with fewer absences and truancies and fewer referrals to the office for behavior problems. Suspensions and expulsions were reduced by 28% (elementary) and 36% (middle school), crime and vandalism by 74% (elementary) and 18% (middle school). However the school district also added other security measures such as security guards, and metal detectors so the success cannot be solely attributed to the uniforms. The district later removed the uniforms.[13] Brazilian primary school students with their teacher Other research found that uniforms were not an effective deterrent to decrease truancy, did not decrease behavior problems, decrease substance use, and in fact may be associated with poorer student achievement relative to students not required to wear school uniforms.[14] Brunsma stated that despite the inconclusiveness of the effects of uniforms, they became more common because "this is an issue of children's rights, of social control, and one related to increasing racial, class and gender inequalities in our schools."[15] A group picture of Thai students (uniforms with dark blue shorts) and Singaporean students (uniforms with cyan skirts and shorts) in front of the Grand Palace As uniforms have become more normalised, there have also been an increasing number of lawsuits brought against school districts. According to David Brunsma, one in four public elementary schools and one in eight public middle and high schools in the United States have policies dictating what a student wears to school.[16] The school code within states' constitutions typically asserts that it allows the board of school directors to make reasonable rules and regulations as they see fit in managing the school's affairs. As of 2025, there are currently 22 states that allow school districts to mandate school uniforms.[17] The constitutional objections usually brought upon school districts tend to fall into one of the following two categories: (1) a violation of the students' First Amendment right to free expression (2) a violation of parents' right to raise their children without government interference. Although up until this point, The Supreme Court has not ruled on a case involving school uniforms directly, in the 1968 decision Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, the Court ruled that upon entering school, students do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech.[18] Internationally, there are differing views of school uniforms. In the Australian state of Queensland, Ombudsman Fred Albietz ruled in 1998 that state schools may not require uniforms.[19] In the Philippines, the Department of Education abolished the requirement of school uniforms in public schools.[20] In England and Wales, technically a state school may not permanently exclude students for "breaching school uniform policy", under a policy promulgated by the Department for Children, Schools and Families but students not wearing the correct uniform are asked to go home and change. In Scotland, some local councils (that have responsibility for delivering state education) do not insist on students wearing a uniform as a precondition to attending and taking part in curricular activities.[21] Turkey abolished mandatory uniforms in 2010.[22] In the Canady v. Bossier Parish School Board lawsuit in 2000, a Louisiana district court ruled in favour of the school board because it did not see how the free speech rights of the students were being violated due to the school board's uniform policy. Even though the plaintiff appealed the decision, the Fifth Circuit Court also ruled in favour of the school board after implementing a four-step system that is still used today. Firstly, a school board has to have the right to set up a policy. Secondly, the policy must be determined to support a fundamental interest of the board as a whole. Thirdly, the guidelines cannot have been set for the purpose of censorship. Finally, the limits on student expression cannot be greater than the interest of the board. As long as these four policies are in place, then no constitutional violation can be claimed.[23] In the Forney Independent School District of Forney, Texas in 2001, the school board decided to implement a school uniform policy allowing the students to wear a polo shirt, oxford shirt or blouse in four possible colours, and blue or khaki trousers or shirts, a skirt or jumper. While there was some flexibility with shoes, certain types were prohibited along with any sort of baggy clothes. The parents of the Littlefield family requested that their son be exempt from the policy, but were denied. In response, the Littlefields filed a lawsuit against the school district, under the pretenses that this uniform mandate infringed on their rights as parents to control how they brought up their children and their education. They even went as far as to cite an infringement on religious freedom, claiming that opting out of the uniforms on the grounds of religion allowed the school to rank the validity of certain religions. Before trial, the District Court dismissed the case, so the family appealed. Ultimately, the Fifth Circuit Court ruled that the students' rights were not being violated even though the claims presented were valid. They ruled that school rules derived from the education would override the parents' right to control their children's upbringing in this specific situation. As far as the religious freedom violation accusations, the court ruled that the policy did not have a religious goal, and thus did not infringe on religious freedom rights.[24] In 2003, Liberty High School, a school of the Clark County School District in Henderson, Nevada, implemented a uniform policy of khakis and red, white or blue polo shirts. A junior by the name of Kimberly Jacobs was suspended a total of five times because she wore a religious shirt to school and got cited for uniform violations. Her family sued the Clark County School District under the claims that her First Amendment rights were being infringed upon and that the uniform policy was causing students to be deprived of due process. The plaintiff's requests were for injunctive relief, the expunging of suspensions from Jacob's school record and awarding of damages. The injunction was granted to the family meaning that the school could no longer discipline her for breaking the uniform policy. At this ruling, the school district appealed. The next court ruled on the side of the school district as it determined that the uniform policy was in fact neutral and constitutional, and it dismissed the claims of the plaintiff.[25] In 2011, a Nevada public elementary school of the Washoe County School District decided to add the school's motto, Tomorrow's Leaders embroidered in small letters on the shirt. In response, Mary and John Frudden, parents of a student sued the school district on the basis of it violating the First Amendment. The court ultimately dismissed the case filed by the Fruddens over the uniforms. However, the family appealed, and two years later, a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard the case. The court ruled to reverse the previous decision of dismissing the case, and also questioned the apparent policy for students that were part of a nationally recognised group such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts who were able to wear the uniforms in place of the school ones on regular meeting days. The 9th circuit panel ruled that the school had not provided enough evidence for why it instituted this policy, and that the family was never given a chance to argue.[26] Schoolgirls in Nepal. Some school uniform policies (e.g. Vietnam) include trousers for girls. School girls in parts of South Asia can choose between skirts or shalwar kameez. There are several positive and negative social implications of uniforms on both the students wearing them and society as a whole. One of the criticisms of uniforms is that it imposes standards of masculinity and femininity from a young age. Uniforms are considered a form of discipline that schools use to control student behavior and often promote conventional gendered dress.[27][28] Boys often are required to wear trousers, belts, and closed-toe shoes and have their shirts tucked in at all times. They are also often required to have their hair cut short. Some critics allege that this uniform is associated with the dress of a professional business man, which, they claim, gives boys at a young age the impression that masculinity is gained through business success.[29] For girls, many uniforms promote femininity by requiring girls to wear skirts. Skirts are seen by some critics as a symbol of femininity because they restrict movement and force certain ways of sitting and playing.[28] Uniforms that include an apron for girls may suggest that the appropriate feminine societal role is a primarily domestic one. Some girls' school uniforms have been criticized as having an uncomfortable design, which prevents girls from freedom of movement and exposes girls to cold during winter.[30] School uniforms are embedded with gender symbolism. Schools that require students to wear a formal uniform almost universally provide trousers for boys and skirts or dresses for girls[citation needed]. Skirts differentiate the female from the male, thereby confirming traditional gender identities for students who must wear the correct attire corresponding to their sex. Skirts and dresses demand a particular type of feminine gender performance, whereas trousers demand a particular masculine gender performance. By forcing students to wear attire that corresponds with their sex inherently assigns the ways a student must perform their gender. This causes controversy when a student does not want to identify with a gender that does not align with their sex. There are rarely guidelines that allow for students to dress according to their performed gender, but almost always according to their sex assigned at birth.[31][page needed] A K-pop all-girls band group wearing uniform-like costumes during a performance, 2017 Around middle or junior school, students begin going through puberty. Uniforms can be seen as a way to restrict the sexualization of girls by taking the focus away from sexuality and focus it on academics in a school setting for girls.[32] Sometimes the desire to prevent overtly sexualized clothing through uniforms can fail. As an example, miniskirts have been very popular in Japan, where they are common parts of school uniforms and came to be worn within the Kogal culture.[33][34] "The pleasure our culture derives from gazing at girls who look feminine conflicts with girls' freedom to run around unselfconsciously and to develop their gross motor talents as boys are encouraged to do" (Collins et al. 1996, p. 170). Schoolgirl uniforms are used in costumes in the context of "Sexy Schoolgirl" and are sold on costume sites year round. The idea of the female school uniform has become sexual and in Britain a new survey from Plan International UK found that a third of girls have been sexually harassed while wearing their school uniform. School uniforms can encourage harassment as children, as some cultures can define the "schoolgirl look" as sexual. Children as young as 8 years old report being victims of, or witnesses to, harassment. Two-thirds of the children questioned in the survey said they have experienced "unwanted sexual attention" in public, and 35 per cent said they have been touched, groped or grabbed without their consent. These experiences teach girls that being harassed by men is just a part of growing up. The perception of schoolgirl uniforms allows for men to harass girls at a young age, causing girls to self-objectify their bodies from the beginning of their schooling experience.[31][35][36] This section contains a pro and con list. Please help rewriting it into consolidated sections based on topics. (April 2015) Cuban high-school girls, 2009 Pupils in Taiwan Primary school boy and girl in Malaysia In some cultures, the topic of school uniforms has sparked a multitude of controversies and debates over the years.[37] Debates concerning the constitutionality and economic feasibility of uniforms also contribute to the controversy. In the United States, the implementation of school uniforms began following ten years of research indicating the effectiveness of private schools. Some state-school reformers cited this research to support policies linked to private and Catholic school success. Some public-school administrators hence began implementing uniform policies to improve the overall school environment and academic achievement of the students. This is based on the assumption that uniforms are the direct cause of behavioral and academic outcome changes.[14] However, within the Catholic school literature, school uniforms have never been acknowledged as a primary factor in producing a Catholic school effect.[38][14] Another area of controversy regarding school uniform and dress code policies revolve around the issue of gender. Nowadays, more teenagers are more frequently "dressing to articulate, or confound gender identity and sexual orientation", which brings about "responses from school officials that ranged from indifferences to applause to bans".[39] School girls of Argentina Students in school uniform in the UK Ethiopian school children Students of different nationalities at an international school in Shanghai, China, 2017. The school does not have a uniform. Advocates of uniforms have proposed several reasons supporting their implementation and claiming their success in schools. Advocates believe that uniforms affect student safety by decreasing student victimization, gang activity, and fights.[40] There has been no concrete evidence of this, and studies by Ohio State University and others showed that uniforms did not increase test scores, grades, or focus. However, attendance increased by less than half of a day. The students felt even less of a sense of belonging at a school with uniforms.[41] Kathleen Wade conducted an experiment to see if bullying and gang presence was higher in uniform or non-uniform schools. The research was done with multiple schools where she gave a questionnaire to both students and faculty to see if there was a significant difference. Her results showed that bullying and gang presence significantly decreases with students wearing school uniforms.[42] Differentiating strangers from students in school buildings For example, in the first year of the mandatory uniform policy in Long Beach, California, officials reported that fighting in schools decreased by more than 50%, assault and battery by 34%, sex offenses by 74%, and robbery by 66%.[42] However the district also added other safety measures like security guards so the success cannot be attributed to the uniforms solely. Advocates also believe that uniforms increase student learning and positive attitudes toward school through: Enhanced learning environments Heightened school pride Increased student achievement High levels of preparedness Conformity to organizational goals Currently, pros of school uniforms center around how uniforms affect school environments. Advocates say that uniforms may create a safe learning environment for students to help them focus on school work and can lead them to great academic accomplishments. Students who wear school uniforms may not feel anxious or nervous about peer pressure in buying new clothes to fit in or being teased by other classmates.[43] Proponents have found a significant positive impact on school climate, safety, and students' self-perception from the implementation of uniforms. However, though modern studies and tests prove uniforms did not increase test scores, behavior, bullying, focus and attendance barely increased.[41] The opposing side of uniforms has claimed their ineffectiveness using a variety of justifications, a variety of which have research supporting them. Some of the cons to school uniforms include the following legal, financial, and questionable effectiveness concerns:[40] The primary concern with school uniforms or strict dress codes is that it limits the ability of students to express themselves. While in countries where uniforms are the norm it simply isn't the case. Clothing is viewed as a means of expression – making all students wear the same clothes or limit them to what they can wear can disrupt their sense of identity. One of the main controversies focuses on dress code policies versus freedom of speech.[44] This establishes that students cannot wear the latest trends or clothes that the school finds that interrupt the learning environment. However, students can wear clothing that express their religion. "Both the Constitution and most state laws protect students' rights to wear religious attire... such as the wearing of a turban, yarmulke, or headscarf."[44] Another negative aspect of school uniforms is that the policy can be sexist. Boys and girls are often not disciplined in the same ways when it comes to dress codes. Girls are more commonly disciplined for certain articles of clothing that are prohibited because they "distract" boys. "Transgender students have been sent home for wearing clothing different from what's expected of their legalness, while others have been excluded from yearbooks."[45] Schoolboys in France, 1880 Uniforms also generally disadvantage students, especially girls, in freedom of movement and comfort. The research was conducted on an Australian independent private school and its uniform. Comfort-wise, for boys, the blazer was too hot/cold and uncomfortable. For girls, the light coloured cotton school dress was restrictive, see-through, hot, uncomfortable, and impractical. Furthermore, the stockings were often cold, grey woolen kilt was too heavy and restrictive of movement, and the wind could cause it to reveal more than the girls wanted. When playing and moving around, for boys, the school tie was a choking hazard, and the trousers had no stretch. For girls, the dress/skirt caused modesty issues (e.g. hard to swing on monkey bars/run around while keeping her privacy, hence stop being active), and the kilts were too big and heavy.[46] Research on how school uniforms and school dress codes influence the student can be inconclusive. "In the U.S., over half of public schools have a dress code, which frequently outline gender-specific policies."[45] Legal concerns Focus on the supposition that requiring a uniform violates children's individual rights (Thomas, 1994; Virginia State Dep’t of Edu, 1992) Mandatory uniform policies are being considered largely for urban school districts, and, hence are being forced on a predominantly minority and poor student population (Thomas, 1994) No effect on social status Many students felt the school uniform policy had little impact on the social dynamic of the school and students found ways to express individuality by making minor alterations to the school uniform (Da Costa, 2006[47]). Some parents and students interviewed in a research about the social aspect of school uniforms said that uniforms were a violation of their rights and freedom. "Like adults, children's freedom to choose or to act is also circumscribed by the community – massively so by schools, with their high density, constant supervision and evaluation, lack of privacy, and the obligatory nature of their activities." (Bodine, 2003[48]) Financial concerns Groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union have voiced concerns about the cost of uniforms, specifically that some disadvantaged parents are unable to afford them (Gursky, 1996) Questionable effectiveness of those policies Strongest opponents of uniform policies charge that no empirical evidence exists to support the numerous and varied claims of uniform proponents (LaPorte, Holoman, & Alleyne, 1992) School uniforms suppress students' individuality by mandating standardization of appearance and removing student expression (Joseph, 1986[49]) While uniform policies have been linked to school climate, safety, and student self-perception, there is no evidence to indicate that a uniform policy increases academic achievement (Wade & Stafford, 2003[50]) Students that do not wear uniforms can be just as successful as students who do wear school uniforms. The amount of effort and participation a student does during class determines their academic success, regardless of what they are wearing. Students who wear school uniforms does not grant them academic achievement.[51] According to Marian Wilde,[52] additional opponent arguments include that school uniforms: Are simply a Band-Aid on the issue of school violence Make students a target for bullies from other schools Are an unfair additional expense for parents who pay taxes for a free public education Are difficult to enforce in state/public (government) schools Fashion portalSchools portal Catholic school uniform School uniforms by country Schoolbag Sumptuary law Uniform fetishism ^ Brunsma, David L. (2004). The school uniform movement and what it tells us about American education : a symbolic crusade. Lanham, Md.: ScarecrowEducation. ISBN 1-57886-125-X. OCLC 53951257. ^ Joseph, Nathan (1986). Uniforms and nonuniforms: communication through clothing. New York: Greenwood Press. 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