



Emerging | Exemplar Essay

Letter to Your Principal: School Uniforms

Wear Whatever You Want



Claim and Focus

The essay predominantly presents the opinion of the writer in lieu of a clear claim that addresses the prompt. Focus on the topic is attempted but claims are vague and/or unsupported ("If everyone wears the same thing how would you tell them apart?").



Support and Evidence

Few relevant details are offered; those that are presented are undeveloped ("uniforms cost a lot and some people may not be able to afford them," "Uniforms will also take away your freedoms").



Organization

The essay lacks the elements of an introduction, conclusion, and the format of a letter. No structure is detected; rather, a set of ideas is listed with little relationship shown between them. Minimal transitions ("If," "Also") are present yet do not show connections among ideas.



Language and Style

A subjective tone and informal style are used throughout, evidenced by shifts in point of view ("I wouldn't like," "I think," "How would you feel if"). Sentence structure is simplistic and unvaried, and word choice does not attend to the interest of the readers.



Using Exemplars in Your Lessons

Exemplar essays are tools to take abstract descriptions and make them more concrete for students. One way to use them is to print the clean copies of the essays and allow students to use the rubric to make notes or even find examples of important elements of an essay - thesis statements, introductions, evidence, conclusions, transitions, etc. Teachers can also use exemplars to illustrate what each score point within a trait 'looks like' in an authentic student essay. For additional ideas, please see "25 Ways to Use Exemplar Essays" by visiting the Curriculum Resources page in Help.

Letter to Your Principal: School Uniforms



Notes

Wear Whatever You Want

Uniforms mean you have to wear the same thing every day. I wouldn't like to wear the same thing every day because you can't be yourself. I think students should wear whatever they want because students want to express themselves. How would you feel if people told you what to wear? How would you feel if you couldn't express your feelings? Every kid would look the same. If kids have to wear uniforms would the teachers? Some kids can be allergic to the material! If everyone wears the same thing how would you tell them apart? Middle school and high school are all about finding out who you are so you should be able to wear whatever you want. Also school uniforms cost a lot and some people may not be able to afford them. Uniforms will also take away your freedoms.