



Developing | Exemplar Essay

Letter to Your Principal: School Uniforms

How Uniforms Prevent Bullying



Claim and Focus

A claim is made ("I think school uniforms are a good idea"), but it is overly general and does not fully address the demands of the prompt. The essay loses focus ("The girls who get bullied...become sad and depressed") which makes it challenging for the reader to follow the claim at times.



Support and Evidence

Some reasoning and evidence are presented ("In my school girls are mostly judging other girls about what they wear," "school uniforms cost less than a hundred for the school year"), but explanations of how they precisely support the claim are underdeveloped.



Organization

While distinct paragraphs are not evident, the format of a letter is recognizable as are basic elements of an introduction and conclusion. Some transitions are used ("But," "This causes," "Every year"), but connections between and among ideas are not consistently clear.



Language and Style

A formal style and consistent perspective are not maintained as the essay shifts between first and third person throughout. Some stronger word choices are made ("eliminate," "depressed"), but the language generally does not show an awareness of the reader's interests.



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



How Uniforms Prevent Bullying

Dear Mr. Jones,

Many school educators are having debates on whether to allow the use of uniforms in school or not to allow them. I think school uniforms are a good idea. Uniforms eliminate worries about how people look. Without uniforms, kids start to focus on what they wear rather than school work. This causes grades to drop and they start to forget about school work because they are worried about how they look. If we had uniforms they would just focus on school work. Bullying is mostly because of what other kids wear. In my school girls are mostly judging other girls about what they wear. The girls who get bullied focus more on clothes than school work after a while. This causes their grades to lower, and affects their future education. They can also become sad and depressed because others are making fun of their clothes. Every year, parents spend tons money on clothes, but they won't have to if their child wears the same uniforms everyday. An average parent spends over a thousand dollars on clothing in one year. But school uniforms cost less than a hundred for the school year. I believe that we should have school uniforms for the students. Please consider these reasons to make your choice.