The Controversy Over Mandatory School Uniforms

Topic: Mandatory School Uniforms

General Purpose: To inform

Specific Purpose: To inform my audience about the positive and negative aspects of mandatory school uniforms

Central Idea: The debate over mandatory school uniforms still exists along with many positive and negative aspects.

Organizational Pattern: State some background information about school uniforms, then the pros and cons of mandatory school uniforms.

I. Introduction

A. Attention Getter: How many of you have ever had a dress code or had to wear any type of uniform for any purpose during your lifetime?

B. Reason to Listen: Chances are the majority of us will either have a dress code or need to wear a uniform sometime during our life, whether it is for a job or military purpose. Also, most of us will eventually have children and be faced with the decision of schools and mandatory school uniforms.

C. Credibility: I decided to focus on the topic of mandatory school uniforms because I was someone who went to private schools and HAD to wear uniforms for 12 years.

D. Central Idea: The debate over mandatory school uniforms still exists along with many positive and negative aspects.

E. Specific Purpose: By the end of my speech, you will be better informed about mandatory school uniforms and be able to better choose a side of this controversy.
F. Preview of Main Points: I will now explain the facts about mandatory school uniforms and the positive and negative aspects.

Transition: To begin, I will explain some general information.

II. Body

A. Many schools are opting for mandatory school uniforms.

1. According to 2-5 (*note-this is a reference, I will put the sources in later), the best way to go about this option is having a limited test in wearing the uniforms.
   a. The test includes getting parents reactions which is a vital issue on making a definite decision.
   b. Another policy is providing financial assistance to those in need.
   c. The last option is beginning the test as voluntary where as the parents could choose to opt out of it.

2. Research and my audience analysis survey show that uniforms are more prominent in some places than others.
   a. 3-18 shows that places with high levels of poverty have opted for a traditional uniform.
   b. According to 6-30, there is a higher percentage for larger schools and more populated areas.
   c. Studies also show that private schools require uniforms much more than public schools.

3. Many schools have already performed tests and decided on mandatory school uniforms.
a. Since 1999, the sales of school uniforms have risen 22%, as stated in 5-29.

b. States that have already enacted school uniform regulations are California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, New York, Tennessee, Utah, and Virginia, according to 7-33.

c. Still, other states do also have many schools who have mandatory school uniforms

B. Many argue the positive aspects of mandatory school uniforms.

1. Financial aspects are a big concern.
   a. 1-3 shows that uniforms are cheaper than paying for in-style clothing.
   b. Uniforms help bring equality between the rich and the poor and eliminate many stereotypes.

2. 7-2 shows that uniforms instill students with discipline.
   a. According to 2-8, uniforms improve behavior and eliminate distractions.
   b. 3-15 explains that uniforms give a sense of pride, confidence and community within all the students, making them appear equally smart.

3. 3-20 explains that uniforms provide security.
   a. They make strangers in the building very obvious.
   b. The reputation of schools improves and there is less gang affiliation and peer pressure.

C. Along with the positive aspects, there are negative aspects as well.

1. According to 1-2 financial aspects can still be a burden.
a. Unless dealing directly with a supplier, uniforms can be very costly.

b. If uniforms are mandatory, they will NEED to be paid for unless financial support is given.

2. With uniforms, 3-10 states that students lose their individuality.
   a. They will no longer have a freedom of choice in what to wear.
   b. Students then cannot express themselves in their own unique way.

3. There are more problems when uniforms are mandatory.
   a. In some cases, nothing can be done about those who do not follow the rule since it is not legally binding.
   b. 3-23 states that it becomes a problem for teachers wasting time trying to decipher who is allowed to be out of uniform or what is not allowed to be worn.

III. Conclusion

A. Review of Main Points: I hope that my speech has well informed you about mandatory school uniforms and the positive and negative aspects of them.

   1. Before becoming mandatory, uniforms are usually put to a test.
   2. Positive aspects include financial aspects, discipline improvement and security.
   3. Negative aspects include opposing financial aspects, loss of individuality, and other problems.

B. Restatement of Thesis: The issue of mandatory school uniforms still holds an argument of positive and negative aspects.
C. Closure: Should we be made to wear certain articles of clothing or should we be able to pick from the latest trends? You decide.