

J.L. Summer 05 LACC
Speech 101

Persuasive Speech: School Uniform's (teacher's perspective)

Specific Goal: To persuade the audience that we should support mandatory uniforms in our public schools.

Proposition: Violence at school is a major issue at present and school uniforms should be mandated in order to make the classroom a safer place for children.

Attention:

- I. When I was in high school I remember there were fights every week.
 - A. People would push you over to rush over to help or just watch.
 - B. Most of the time, the fights were caused by rival gangs at the school.
- II. Today I will speak about how uniforms will improve safety at our schools.
- III. I went to a high school with a lot of violence, so much so that our school was nicknamed "stab" high school by other teenagers in the city.
- IV. Violence at school is a major issue at present and school uniforms should be mandated in order to make the classroom a safer place for children.

Transition: Let's first talk about how violence is prevalent in our schools.

Need:

- I. Violence among teens is a major issue that needs to be addressed.
 - A. Much of the violence is caused by gangs.
 1. Middle student Andrew Jacobsen says, "I know some friends who were beaten up by other kids for wearing gang colors—even though they had not idea they were doing it." (Hoge, Floster, Nickell, Field, Social Education, 2002, 7).
 2. "I know that school uniforms make life easier and safer for students" (Ibid).
 3. Another student says, "I have been an eyewitness to gang members driving up to a school and instigating trouble (throwing rocks) with students in gang colors" (personal interview: Jennifer Loughlin).
 - B. Violence has also been linked to the stealing of expensive clothing.
 1. In Detroit, "an 18 year old was shot and killed for his parka and Nike sneakers worth \$70" (Darnton, N. Newsweek, 1990, 1).
 2. "In a six month period, four Chicago youths were killed for warm-up jackets valued between \$90 and \$200" (Ibid).

Transition: Now that we've reviewed this problem of violence let's move on to a solution to it.

Satisfaction:

II. School uniforms have helped reduce violence at school.

A. This worked in the Long Beach district.

Show Visual Aid of Pie Chart

1. The district reports that assault and battery decreased by 34%, (Hoge, Floster, Nickell, Field, Social Education, 2002, 7)

a. fighting decreased by 51%,

b.. robbery decreased by 65%

2. In addition, “100% of administrators, 86% of counselors, and 66% of teachers said that classrooms had less disruptions” (Ibid, 8).

B. It has also worked at other places.

1. Students at a school in Baltimore, Maryland voluntarily decided to implement uniforms to a “cut clothing costs and curb social pressures” (Million, Communicator, 1996, 1)

2. Nine years later, the school’s principal says that attendance and test scores have increased, suspensions and fights have decreased, and students are more focused (Ibid).

Transition: Before concluding, let’s take a look at the negative and positive aspects of mandating school uniforms.

Visualization:

III. To make the classroom a safer place, school uniforms should be mandated.

A. If schools do not require uniforms violence will continue to negatively effect students.

1. Such violence “has been labeled by many health professionals as a potential threat to the overall health and academic success of children” (King, Journal of School and Health, 1998, 1)

2. “Approximately 1 in 4 students report worrying about becoming a victim of crime or threats at school, and 1 in 8 reports having been victimized at school” (Ibid).

B. If schools require uniforms violence will decrease and academic achievement will increase.

1. “Youths who feel safe, secure, and free from threats of violence perform better academically” (Ibid, 2).

2. “Of the 5, 500 principals surveyed at the National Association of Secondary School Principal’s annual conference in February 1996, more than 70% believed that requiring students to wear uniforms to school would reduce violent incidents and discipline problems” (Ibid).

Transition: Here, we can see that uniforms can help violence in schools.

Call to Action:

I. My high school had a lot of problems with gangs and violence.

II. The problem of violence can be reduced with school uniforms.

III. There are several things you can do to help support mandatory school uniforms.

Show Visual Aid Word Chart on Call to Act

A. If your school doesn't have uniforms go to a board meeting and introduce the subject.

B. Write a letter to the editor of a your local newspaper about your stance on school uniforms.

C. If your school decides to implement uniforms encourage the students to wear them and reinforce the positive.

IV. Today, I hope we have all learned something about violence in our schools and how it can be reduced.

References:

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Hoge, J., Foster, S., Nickell, P., Field, S. (2002, September). Mandatory school uniforms: a debate for students. *Social Education*, 66, 1-8. Retrieved July 5, 2005 from INFOTRAC database (Expanded Academic) on the World Wide Web:
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