The Great Debate: School Uniforms Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**PROMPT: The increase in school violence has prompted Wake County to consider instituting a school uniform policy. This decision comes after researching the positive impact of uniforms in other school districts.**

**Your job is to convince your school board to either go forward in adopting a uniform policy, or to convince them to consider other options.**

You will research by reading several articles, watching videos, and talking to real students who wear uniforms in order to form your argument either for or against school uniforms.

**THE CATCH: You will be ASSIGNED a side, so make sure you collect plenty of information for both sides.**

**Step 1: Gather information and cite your sources. Copy word for word, or paraphrase.**

Take-away: *(example)*

“Schools with uniform policies improved in attendance, graduation and suspension rates.”

Source: [www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/school-uniforms/](http://www.greatschools.org/gk/articles/school-uniforms/)

Take-away: Girls’ attendance rate went up because they had less pressure to dress “cool”

No changes in math scores, and science scores even dropped in some schools.

Crime rate dropped in the Long Beach study… in 1995 (20+ years ago) possibly no real results

Source: Discovery Ed video

Take-away:

Source:

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**Step 2: Plan your rough draft**

**Introduction paragraph**

**Elements of an introduction paragraph:**

* Draw your readers in with a fascinating **Grabber**: *Quote, Creative Hook, Definition, Interesting*

*Question, Riddle, Personal Experience, Opinion*

* Give **background information** the reader needs to know in order to understand your opinion.
* Respectfully acknowledge the opposing viewpoint. *(Example: Although many people believe \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I disagree.)*
* End with a **thesis statement, which states your position.** (Could be something like this: *So, school uniforms should (not) be required because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.)*

*Write your introduction paragraph here. Label each part using the letters from above.*

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**Supporting Evidence Body Paragraphs**

Sort your evidence into logical categories. Choose 2 categories to focus on. These will be your two body paragraphs. *(Example: prevent bullying, prevent discipline issues, make everyone feel equal…)*

**Supporting Evidence Body Paragraph 1**

*o Topic Sentence: What is one item, fact, detail, or example you can tell your readers that will help them better understand your argument ? Your answer should be the topic sentence for this paragraph. It will not be* ***“In this paragraph, we will talk about…”***

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*o Introduce Evidence: Introduce your evidence either in a few words (ex: according to greatschools.org…) or in a full sentence (ex: to understand this issue we first need to look at the facts.).*

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*o Explain Evidence: How should we read or interpret the evidence you are providing us? How does this evidence prove the point you are trying to make in this paragraph? Can be opinion based and is often at least 1-3 sentences.*

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*o Transition Sentence: End your paragraph with a sentence that leads us logically to the next body paragraph. (Ex: This leads me to my next important point….)*

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**Supporting Evidence Body Paragraph 2**

*o Topic Sentence: What is one item, fact, detail, or example you can tell your readers that will help them better understand your argument ? Your answer should be the topic sentence for this paragraph. It will not be* ***“In this paragraph, we will talk about…”***

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*o Introduce Evidence: Introduce your evidence either in a few words (ex: according to greatschools.org…) or in a full sentence (ex: to understand this issue we first need to look at the facts.).*

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*o Explain Evidence: How should we read or interpret the evidence you are providing us? How does this evidence prove the point you are trying to make in this paragraph? Can be opinion based and is often at least 1-3 sentences.*

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*o Transition Sentence: End your paragraph with a sentence that leads us logically to the next body paragraph. (Ex: This leads me to my next important point….)*

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**Conclusion Paragraph**

*Strongly restate your two main reasons why students in Wake County need school uniforms. Keep it simple but use definitive words (absolutely, clearly, must…etc).*

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*Describe the benefits of agreeing with your claim (what good things will happen if you impose a school uniform policy?)*

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*Describe the disadvantages for NOT agreeing with your claim (what will happen if you do not impose school uniform policy?)*

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*Call on your readers to do something, use a definitive word or phrase. End your argument essay with a tone of authority by using a definitive phrase such as: “You must”, “clearly”, “above all”.*

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*Consider ending your argument essay with a well-chosen statistic, fact or quote.*

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