

Name _____

Date _____

Reasons and Evidence

Reasons and evidence are the support authors use to develop and strengthen their claims or arguments. Reasons explain why the author believes something, while evidence provides facts, statistics, examples, expert opinions, or personal experiences that prove these reasons. Strong arguments use relevant, accurate, and sufficient evidence from credible sources. Readers should evaluate whether the evidence logically supports the claim and consider if alternative explanations exist.

Read the following persuasive text and answer the questions.

School Uniforms: A Solution Worth Considering

Our school district should implement a uniform policy for all middle schools beginning next academic year. This change would benefit students, families, and our educational environment in several important ways.

First, school uniforms reduce social pressure and bullying related to clothing choices. According to a recent study by the Educational Research Institute, schools that adopted uniform policies reported a 27% decrease in bullying incidents within the first year.

Students interviewed at Westlake Middle School, which implemented uniforms three years ago, consistently mentioned feeling less judged by peers about their appearance.

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Second, uniforms create financial savings for families. While the initial uniform purchase requires investment, the overall cost is lower than buying multiple trendy outfits throughout the year. The National Retail Federation reports that families with middle school students spend an average of 300 annually on school clothes, while uniform expenses average 150-\$200 per year. Additionally, our neighboring Franklin School District established a uniform exchange program that helps families with financial constraints.

Third, uniforms help students focus on learning rather than appearance. Principal Garcia of Oakridge Middle School observed that after implementing uniforms, "Teachers reported fewer classroom disruptions related to inappropriate clothing and noticed students seemed more engaged in academic activities." This observation is supported by attendance records showing a 5% improvement in daily attendance after uniform adoption.

Critics claim that uniforms restrict student expression and individuality. However, students can still express themselves through clubs, arts, sports, and academic pursuits. Many schools with uniform policies allow personal expression through accessories like pins, socks, or hairstyles within reasonable guidelines.

By implementing school uniforms, our district would create a more equitable learning environment, reduce financial burden on families, and help students focus on what really matters—their education.

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1. What is the main claim of this persuasive text?

2. Identify two pieces of evidence the author uses to support the claim that uniforms create financial savings.

3. How does the author address opposing viewpoints? Is this approach effective?

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Reasons and Evidence-Answer Key

1. What is the main claim of this persuasive text?

The main claim is that the school district should implement a uniform policy for all middle schools because it would benefit students, families, and the educational environment.

2. Identify two pieces of evidence the author uses to support the claim that uniforms create financial savings.

The author cites National Retail Federation data showing families spend 300 annually on regular clothes versus 150-\$200 for uniforms, and mentions Franklin School District's uniform exchange program that helps families with financial constraints.

3. How does the author address opposing viewpoints? Is this approach effective?

The author acknowledges that critics claim uniforms restrict student expression, then counters that students can express themselves through other means. This approach is effective because it shows the author has considered opposing views.