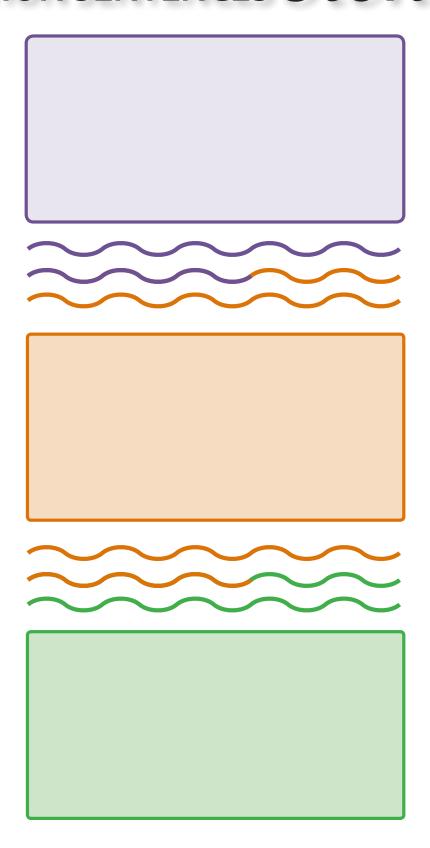
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Should Public Schools Get Uniforms

Picture a school where all students are treated fairly, kindly, and respectfully. Kids could walk the halls without the worry of being made fun of because of their outer appearance. This may sound like just a fantasy, but in fact, it could become a reality in every school across the nation. Having uniforms in public schools could make this dream come true.

For now, however, this "dream" is more a nightmare as teens are often judged based on what they wear. Every day, kids are tormented by their peers for wearing clothes that are considered "not cool." This could be easily solved if all kids wore uniform clothes. If everyone was dressed exactly the same, then no one could judge others by what they wear. Kids would take the time to get to know each other, instead of saying, "I don't like her cheap clothes, so obviously she isn't good enough to be friends with me." With uniforms, teens would decide whether they like someone based on personality alone.

In addition to taking the judgment out, wearing uniforms would save kids the stress of deciding what to wear to school every day. Kids spend more time figuring out what to wear than they spend actually getting ready for school. Kids are often late for school as a result of this. If kids were required to wear uniforms to school every day, then they wouldn't have to spend time and energy worrying about what to wear.

It's not just the kids that need to stop worrying so much about fashion, it's their parents, too. Many parents argue that kids should be able to express their individuality through clothes. Rather than clothing tips, parents need to teach their children that inner beauty is far more important than outer beauty. Parents need to educate kids to not put the emphasis on clothes and accessories, but on people and relationships.

Uniforms can actually bring people together. *Uni-form* means one form, one group. The student body would be one unit. There would be uniformity. Having uniforms could make school a safer and friendlier environment, ending a lot of prejudice and reducing anxiety.