School’s Decision to Change Our Dress Code

<https://macmillanmh.com/ccssreading/imagineit/grade6/ccslh_g6_ri_2_3b_l1.html>

I think the school’s decision to change our dress code to uniforms will hurt students more than help them.

Even though school officials and parents argue that uniforms will help us focus more on our studies, this may not actually be the case. In a survey I did of one hundred students from all three grades, only six thought that wearing a uniform would help them make better grades. On top of that, our school already receives above-average ranking on statewide tests.

In our school, individual accomplishment, not conformity, is encouraged. Both our Spelling Bee champ and our star basketball player were congratulated at a recent school assembly. In addition, part of our school curriculum is celebrating diversity. How can the school encourage us to be individuals and celebrate diversity, on the one hand, but at the same time tell us what to wear every single school day?  
Also, the uniforms are just plain uncomfortable and not very practical. The girls, who have to wear skirts, will be unnecessarily cold in winter. The boys, who have to wear ties, will waste time every morning just trying to tie them right!  
And, let’s face it, uniforms cost a lot of money.

The students of Thomas Jefferson Middle School should be able to have a say in what they wear every day, just like they have for twenty years. Tell your teacher, talk to your parents, write a letter to the principal, and sign a petition. Let us work together to get out of the uniforms and into our own clothes.

*What main idea is the author trying to convince readers to agree with?*

*Does the author provide reasons and evidence to support this claim?*