

UNIT 6



ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

**What Rights and Responsibilities
Should Teens Have?**



Writers of **persuasive nonfiction** want to convince readers to **agree** with their position, or viewpoint.

Structure of Arguments

All persuasive writing starts with a **claim**. Claims are statements that give the writer's position, or the point a writer is trying to make. What claim does the author make in the Demo Text?

Good writers then support their claims with strong, relevant **evidence**.

Claim	Evidence
<i>I think _____.</i>	<i>What makes you say so?</i>

Read the following two passages.

Identify the author's claim.

Schools should have school uniforms.

or

Schools should not have school uniforms.



Support School Uniforms Now!

Our school district should adopt a uniform policy for all schools. Last year I saw one student making fun of another student's old clothes. They got into a fight. Both were suspended from school. I thought to myself, "If we wore school uniforms, this would never have happened."

Dr. Donald Philpot, a professor at our local college, led a study of middle and high schools last year. This study proved that school uniforms are good for students. Schools with a uniform policy had a 40% decrease in fights over two years. Schools without uniforms had a small increase in fights.

The average cost of uniforms for one student is \$175 per year, according to clothing sellers. Some families spend ten times that amount on back-to-school clothes every August! This is a fact some students brag about.

A school uniform policy would have three more benefits. First, it would keep expenses

lower for all families. Second, it would keep wealthier students from acting superior because their families can afford to spend a lot of money on their clothes. Third, it would keep students whose families are not wealthy from feeling embarrassed about their clothes.

It seems that many people are already aware of the benefits of uniforms. Dr. Philpot's survey showed that 72% of students and 82% of parents are in favor of school uniforms. During a recent interview, Dr. Philpot said, "People know that school uniforms reduce fighting, keep students from worrying about fashion trends, and create a level playing field for those who can't afford expensive, trendy clothes."


It's clear that requiring uniforms reduces violence at school and keeps students from caring too much about unimportant things like fashion. Adopting a uniform policy is a healthy step. Everyone has a responsibility to help make schools safe. Call or write the district superintendent to show your support.





What is the author's claim?

Demo Text 1:

Claim:	<p><u>Circle Your Answer:</u></p> <p>The author believes schools should...</p> <p>have uniforms / <u>not</u> have uniforms</p>
Evidence:	<p>How do you know? </p> <p>Write one piece of evidence from the text to support the author's claim:</p>

Vocabulary

Choose 3 new words from demo text 1. Use a dictionary or computer

Definition	Picture
Word	
Sentence	In my language

Definition	Picture
Word	
Sentence	In my language

Definition	Picture
Word	
Sentence	In my language

No School Uniforms!

Mandatory school uniforms may sound like a good idea, but I think it's a bad policy. My cousin goes to a school where they require school uniforms. And guess what? Kids still find things to tease each other about.

It would be much better to have students wear different things and to learn how to accept one another. When students become adults and enter the real world, they will have to learn to deal with differences. It just makes sense that they should learn this behavior in school.

School uniforms won't necessarily save families money, either. According to a survey I read in the local paper, about 50% of families don't buy brand-name clothes in the first place. Some families in the survey actually spent more

when a school uniform policy was put in place. For example, one family used to spend around \$400.00 for their two kids at the start of each school year. They reported that the uniforms cost them more than \$500.00.

Finally, school uniforms prevent students from expressing their individual beliefs and personalities. Agnes Levin, a local teen counselor, was recently interviewed about school uniforms. "Making everyone dress the same is terrible," she said. "It destroys students' individuality and spirit."

It's easy to see how mandatory uniforms can prevent students from learning proper behavior, can cost families more money, and can suppress students' personalities. Take action against requiring school uniforms at our school! Contact the district superintendent to make it known that you oppose school uniforms.



What is the author's claim?

Demo Text 2:

Claim:

Circle Your Answer:

The author believes schools should...

have uniforms / not have uniforms

Evidence:

How do you know?



Write one piece of evidence **from the text** to support the author's claim:

Vocabulary

Choose 3 new words from demo text 2. Use a dictionary or computer

Definition	Picture
Word	
Sentence	In my language

Definition	Picture
Word	
Sentence	In my language

Definition	Picture
Word	
Sentence	In my language



Express Opinions



How to Express Opinions

- Tell what you see in the pictures.
- Use words like **I think** and **I believe** to tell what you think.
- Give reasons for your opinion.


Try It

1. With someone else, talk about **school uniforms**.
2. **Ask** a family member what he or she thinks about school uniforms.
Take notes on the note sheet below.
3. Then **express** your opinion about what you think about school uniforms.

Use words like **I think**, **I believe**, and **In my opinion**. Support your opinions with reasons.

✓ **Ask** a family member what he or she thinks about school uniforms.

✓ Take notes on the note sheet below.

Family Member Name:	Opinion about School Uniforms: 	Why?

■ Your Job as a Reader

When you read persuasive nonfiction, first recognize that the author is trying to persuade you to agree with his or her viewpoint. Your job as a reader is to consider the author's ideas and decide whether you agree with his or her position. For example, you may have synthesized all of the author's evidence and still had a different opinion about school uniforms.

Do YOU agree or disagree?



Write your opinion about school uniforms.

- Use words like **I think** and **I believe** to tell what you think.
- Use the texts to give reasons for your opinion.



Persuade



How to Persuade

- Tell your opinion.
Example: *We should wear school uniforms.*
- Give reasons for your opinion.
Example: *Uniforms allows everyone to be equal.*
- Use persuasive words like **must**, **have to**, and **should**.

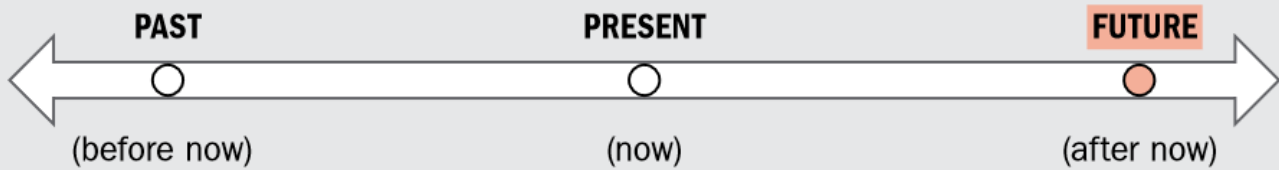
Try It

1. **Persuade** your family to believe in your argument about school uniforms.
2. Support your ideas with reasons.

Use words like **must**, **have to**, and **should**. Support your opinions with reasons.

Use Verbs in the Future Tense

- The tense, or time, of a verb shows when an action happens.



- Use the **future tense** to tell about something that will happen later. To form the future tense, add **will** before the main verb.

My family **will move** soon.

I **will go** to a new school.

On the first day of school, I **will look** for a friend.

Try It

A. Change each sentence to the future tense. Write the new sentence.

- I join the Young Chefs Club at school. _____

- The club meets at 3:30 p.m. on Friday. _____

- I find new friends there. _____

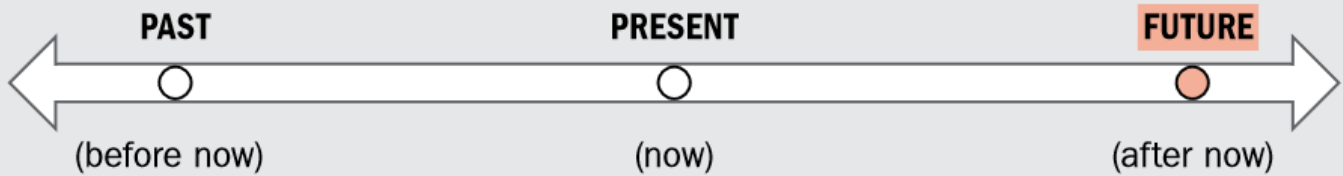
- The teacher shows us delicious, simple recipes. _____

B. Complete each sentence. Use the future tense of the verb in parentheses.

- The Young Chefs Club _____ our families to a special dinner. **(invite)**
- Some students _____ spaghetti and salad. **(make)**
- Other students _____ desserts. **(bake)**
- Of course, everyone _____ this meal! **(love)**

Use Verbs in the Future Tense

- The tense, or time, of a verb shows when an action happens.



- Use the **future tense** to tell about something that will happen later. To form the future tense, add **will** before the main verb.

The bell **will ring** soon. Mia **will go** into school.

- You can use a contraction to shorten a pronoun and **will**. An apostrophe (') takes the place of the letters you leave out.

She will feel shy. | **I will** help her. | **We will** do well.

She'll feel shy. | **I'll** help her. | **We'll** do well.

- You also can shorten **will** and **not**. Use the contraction **won't**.

Mia **will not** know anyone. | It **will not** take long to make friends.

Mia **won't** know anyone. | It **won't** take long to make friends.

Try It

- A. Complete each sentence. Write the future tense of the verb in parentheses.

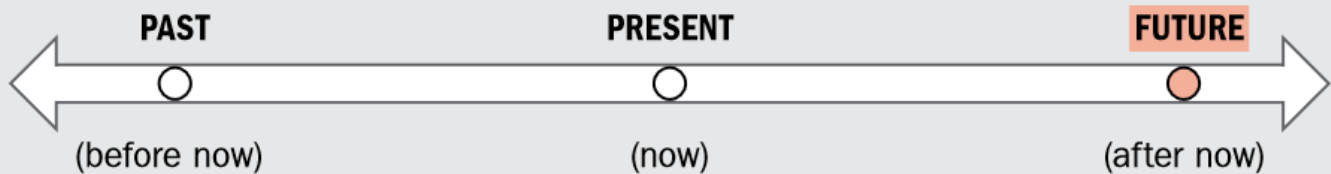
- Mia _____ the school office first. (**visit**)
- Then she _____ to some classes. (**go**)
- I _____ lunch with Mia. (**eat**)

- B. Make a contraction from the future tense words. Write the new sentence.

- Mia will not go home right after school. _____
- She will talk to the music teacher. _____
- Then I will take her to the softball coach. _____

Use Verbs in the Future Tense

- The **future tense** of a verb shows that an action will happen later.



- You can use a form of **be** with **going to** and a **main verb** to tell about the future.

Subject	Form of Be	Example
I	am	I am going to see my cousin, Jun Ming.
you	are	You are going to come with me.
he, she, it	is	He is going to visit us from China.
we	are	We are going to meet him at my grandparents' house.
they	are	They are going to give us a good meal, too.

Try It

A. Read each sentence. Then write it in the future tense. Use a form of **be** and **going to**.

- I take Jun Ming to the city. _____
- We visit the science museum. _____
- My mom meets us there. _____

B. Complete these sentences in the future tense. Use **am**, **is**, or **are** and **going to**.

- Jun Ming _____ stay with me all summer.
- We _____ have a lot of fun.

