

PERSUASIVE WRITING IN CONTEXT

Read the situation described below and use it to complete the assignment that follows.

The Situation

The Prosper High School administration is considering a proposal brought forward by the Parents' Advisory Council to adopt a school dress code. Supporters of the proposal express concern over student clothing choices that are frequently too revealing, inappropriate, or unsafe. Opponents of the proposal believe that a dress code would infringe on the rights of both students and their parents.

In deciding whether to accept the proposal, the Prosper High School administration has invited concerned individuals to make their views known. You are Quinn Whitley, a Grade 12 student at Prosper High School. You have considered information and opinions from a variety of sources (on the following two pages). After considering the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal, you have reached a decision. You now need to write a persuasive speech or letter that clearly develops your position.

The Assignment

Write a speech or letter that will persuade the Prosper High School administration either to **ACCEPT or **REJECT** the proposal to adopt a school dress code.**

In preparing your speech or letter, BE SURE TO

- study the information on the following pages
- consider your purpose and audience
- present a clear argument that explains the reasons behind your decision
- use an appropriate tone

Remember that you must clearly and directly choose either to **accept** or to **reject** the proposal.

PROPOSED DRESS CODE

Prosper Students' Advisory Council

The Proposed School Dress Code will ban the Following:

Halter-tops, tube tops, off the shoulder tops, or low-cut tops of any kind

Extremely short shorts, skirts or dresses

Bandannas, hairnets, insignias on clothing which are crude, vulgar, profane, sexually suggestive, or advocate racial/ethnic prejudice, and alcohol or drug use, or gang affiliation

Exposed undergarments

White sleeveless undershirts

Chains, jewelry, shoes and other clothing with points or spikes

Bare midriffs

Students who do not comply with the Prosper school dress code must return home and change or a school T-shirt will be provided.

COGNITIVE STUDIES

Academic Journal

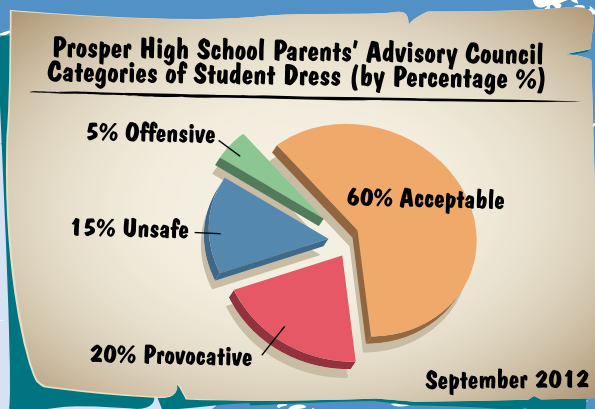
News | Studies | Journals

Student academic performance is more strongly linked to external factors than it is to cognitive ability. According to Dr. Sean Wells of the University of Western Canada, students are negatively influenced by the distractions of regular classroom settings.

“Conventional classrooms are filled with numerous distractions that are visual, auditory, and psychological in nature. When these distractions are reduced or removed, it becomes easier for students to focus on the material being studied.”

Key findings of the study include:

- removing a single distraction improved concentration by 20%
- students in test groups with no distractions performed 30% higher on cognitive assessments
- psychological factors affecting student performance were hardest to control



FASTPOLL RESULTS BLOG

Do you think the Prosper High School should have a dress code for students?

Results

Group	Yes	No	Undecided
High School Students	64%	22%	14%
High School Staff	82%	5%	13%
Parents	21%	53%	26%

Comments

User: **coolgirl11** (Janey Marcel) quote edit

The school can have a dress code when they buy me a new wardrobe

User: **steve&marlene123** (The Johnsons) quote edit

As parents, we resent outside authorities making decisions for our children. That's our job.

ESLATE

19:00

HITT.com

➔ ["Results disappointing" says Rolling Hills' Principal](#)
For the second straight year, provincial test results and high school completion rates have fallen in Rolling Hills. "We had hoped that the school uniform policy we introduced would have a positive effect," says Principal Julia Martin. "The theory was that students would be able to concentrate more on learning, but it hasn't worked out that way." ➔ ★★☆☆☆

➔ [Prospero Players' season premiere "less than formal"](#)
The Prospero Players attempt to bring a sense of style and grace to their new theatre continues to face challenges as patrons don't seem to get it. "Jeans and T-shirts, sweatpants, ball caps, toques, and hightops? This is an insult to the actors and community members who know what a formal occasion calls for." ➔ ★★★★★

➔ [Fashion trends more "naughty" than "nice"](#)
Short hemlines, short shorts, thigh-high boots, and stockings dominate the fashion circuit. But these and other fashions carry cautions when they are taken off the runway and into the workplace. "To embrace what's hot and current, trendsetters need to adapt what they see in the magazines in order to still dress appropriately in any situation." ➔ ★★☆☆☆

Prosper Community News

Snow Storm Leaves Students Stranded



November 5, 2012

... the Prosper school bus skidded off the road during the storm, and by the time the local fire department reached the bus, the temperature had dropped to minus 30°C. Many students were treated for mild frostbite. "The snow pack stalled the engine and we had no heat" said driver Rudy Weller. "It wouldn't have been as serious if the kids knew how to dress ..."

PROSPER STUDENTS' UNION PRESENTS

BEACH BASH

PRIZES FOR HOTTEST BEACH WEAR



ACTIVITIES

- * BEACH VOLLEYBALL * SURF MUSIC * HULA CONTEST *
- * LIMBO CONTEST * FREE BURGERS AND HOTDOGS *
- * SAND CASTLE BUILDING CONTEST *



The Town of Prosper

CITIZEN LINK

LOGIN

Name:

Password:

What is your opinion on the proposed dress code?

Derek Yee  **freespirit000:** My clothes express who I am. When u tell me what 2 wear, u are forcing me 2 b just like everybody else.

Charles Novak  **nnspartners.com:** When I entered the professional world I traded in my ripped jeans for dress pants and a tie. To be taken seriously, you have to dress the part.

Jolene Badger  **jbdesigner30:** My elders taught me that everything is in constant flux and changes with the times. So shouldn't our perspectives on appropriateness of dress and fashion reflect this as well?