

Synthesis Essay Thesis Example

Dress codes are everywhere. According to the National Center for Education statistics, more than 53% of schools have dress code guidelines. However, these standards to conform students and promote learning become sexist by targeting females, sexualizing clothing, and leading to a disproportionate loss of learning time.

In a place to promote equality and learning, dress codes are anything but. More than 70% of school dress codes specifically deal with clothing designed for females. These include, but are not limited to, shorts, skirts, leggings, tank tops, and shirts. For example, shorts for girls are hard to find that stay within the fingertip rule, while these are easy to find for boys. Leggings and yoga pants, which are designed for females, are banned completely in some schools.

Furthermore, clothing tailored toward females and the female body becomes sexualized through dress codes. For example, the Breton High School dress code asks for girls to dress “conservatively” so they do not “distract boys.” However, during hot weather, dress codes can be uncomfortable and disruptive to a girl’s education, according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

Finally, dress codes lead to lost learning time for girls. In a survey by Phi Delta Kappa, more than 25% of girls, as opposed to only 5% of boys, were given a dress code violation. Of those coded between 15-20% were disciplined for this violation and made to get new clothing or sent home. Sasha Jones points out in her article “Do School Dress Codes Discriminate Against Girls?” dress codes are unfairly reinforced with more girls getting hit with violations. Code violations can lead to a disproportionate risk of lost learning time for female students.

The theory behind dress codes can make sense to some. However, when you start to break down the research, it’s easy to see dress codes become sexist by targeting females, sexualizing clothing, and leading to a disproportionate loss of learning time for women. While rewording dress codes could fix the problem, there is a larger equality issue at play when it comes to gender.

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