

Motion: We should get rid of school uniforms - ARGUMENTS FOR

POINT We should get rid of school uniforms because stop us expressing ourselves at school.

EXPLANATION When schools have a uniform, everyone must dress the same. Pupils are told off if they try to change the uniform to make themselves stand out more. This means they can't show their personality in the way they dress.

EXAMPLE If a pupil wears something with a picture from their favourite TV show, they will be in trouble! They will be told they are not wearing school uniform and may get a warning or a penalty.

POINT We should get rid of school uniforms because home clothes are more comfortable

EXPLANATION Everybody is different - and we find different clothes comfortable. But uniforms are all the same! If there were no uniforms, we would all wear clothes we are comfortable in.

EXAMPLE For example, in the winter the school uniform means I have to wear tights - but if I could choose, I would wear something more comfortable like jeans or a tracksuit.

POINT We should get rid of schools uniforms because they are expensive

EXPLANATION In some schools, the uniform costs a lot of money. These aren't even clothes you wear everywhere - only in school! It can be hard for parents to buy an expensive uniform, as well as the other clothes a child needs.

EXAMPLE For example, your parents might have to buy an expensive blazer, or buy the whole uniform from one expensive shop.

Motion: We should get rid of school uniforms - ARGUMENTS AGAINST

POINT We should keep school uniforms because they prevent bullying

EXPLANATION If everyone wore their own clothes, some people might be picked on or bullied for not wearing the best clothes.

EXAMPLE Not everyone can own the coolest clothes.

POINT We should keep school uniforms because they stop people worrying what they look like

EXPLANATION When everyone is wearing the same clothes, we don't need to spend ages in the morning worrying about what to wear, and how we appear. This means we worry less.

EXAMPLE If you had to decide what to wear every day, you may be very worried about your appearance.

POINT We should keep school uniforms because they help the school to feel like one community

EXPLANATION School uniforms help us all to feel like part of a group - when you look around, you can see all the members of your school! It's important to feel part of a community when you are at school.

EXAMPLE For example, I feel proud that I can wear this school's uniform - it means everyone can see I am part of the school community.

Motion: Every child should have a mobile phone - ARGUMENTS FOR

POINT Mobile phones help children keep in touch with their parents.

EXPLANATION Mobile phones allow children to let their parents know where they are so that they don't worry. It also makes children feel safer if they know that they can phone their parents if anything bad happens.

EXAMPLE If we have a mobile phone, our parents can let us walk home alone or go to a friend's house because they know they can call us if they get worried.

POINT Mobile phones are a useful source of information

EXPLANATION You can find out lots of useful things with a phone. This helps you to learn more about your surroundings.

EXAMPLE For example, phones have maps, and you can use the internet to find out anything!

POINT Mobile phones are fun!

EXPLANATION You can play lots of games on a phone - there are many different types of game. Why should only adults be allowed to play these fun games? Every child should have a phone so that they too can play games.

EXAMPLE For example, I like to play quiz games with my friends on my phone - especially when our school bus is stuck in traffic! For example, I like to play quiz games with my friends on my phone - especially when our school bus is stuck in traffic!

POINT

Mobile phones can stop you sleeping

EXPLANATION

Having a mobile phone makes it tempting to use it late at night. But looking at a phone screen before bed can make it more difficult to sleep.

EXAMPLE

For example, my brother likes to play games on his phone before bed, and he finds it very difficult to fall asleep. He's often tired the next day.

POINT

Mobile phones can be distracting

EXPLANATION

It's hard to talk to or play with someone if they're using their phone. Some people are on their phones all the time - they may have messages from friends they want to check. But this means they are a bit distracted all the time, and they miss out on the things going on around them.

EXAMPLE

For example, my friend is often using his phone when we're talking, and it makes me feel left out - it's better to have friends that are not distracted when you're talking to them.

POINT

Children don't need mobile phones

EXPLANATION

Lots of the uses of phones are things that adults should do - for example, getting directions, or calling people to make plans. Children can always ask for help from an adult - they don't need phones of their own.

EXAMPLE

For example, if I was at a friend's house after school, I could use their house phone or their parent's mobile to call and let my parents where I was.

POINT

Keeping animals in zoos is cruel

EXPLANATION Animals are meant to be free. They should live in the wild. When we keep them in zoos, they are often in cages that are smaller than the forests or jungles they would roam in the wild. This can make the animals stressed and unhappy.

EXAMPLE

Polar bear enclosures are usually 100 times smaller than the area they would travel around in the wild. Many polar bears kept in zoos show signs of stress and unhappiness - they pace up and down by the bars of their cages or rock from side to side.

POINT

Zoos sometimes take animals from the wild

EXPLANATION In some zoos, animals are not bred in captivity. Instead they are taken from the wild. This can be really bad for the animals living in the wild - there are fewer wild animals left.

EXAMPLE

For example, lots of zoos want chimpanzees. So, lots of hunters go into the forests and jungles to look for chimpanzees and take them from the wild. Sometimes, adult chimpanzees are even killed so that their babies can be taken for zoos!

POINT

Zoos encourage people to think of animals as entertainment

EXPLANATION We shouldn't think of animals just as toys for people. We should respect all animals as other living creatures. Zoos encourage people to think of animals as just there to amuse or entertain us. It would be more respectful to animals to ban zoos.

EXAMPLE

For example, zoos are often designed with the needs of people in mind - their enclosures are designed to make it easier to see the animals, rather than thinking about what might be the nicest place for the animal to live.

POINT Zoos play an important role in the protection of endangered species.

EXPLANATION There are many types of animal where not many are left in the wild. These species are endangered - they might go extinct! In zoos, they can be protected from dangers like hunters, and their numbers can increase.

EXAMPLE For example, the Przewalski's horse was going extinct, but some were looked after in zoos. In these zoos, they were kept safe and they were able to breed. The Przewalski's horse was then reintroduced to the wild, and now there are many more!

POINT Zoos help us to learn about animals.

EXPLANATION Zoos are a brilliant place to learn about animals. Often, they provide lots of information about the animals, and you can also see them with your own eyes.

EXAMPLE For example, I love to visit the penguins at London Zoo, and now I know a lot more about the different types of penguin, and what they like to eat!

POINT Zoos are not always cruel - they can provide good environments for animals.

EXPLANATION Animals in the wild face lots of difficulties. There may be a loss of their habitat (the place they live). There may be predators and hunters. Zoos, on the other hand, provide safe, clean environments. If animals get ill, they can be treated by a vet.

EXAMPLE For example, 80% of mammals live longer in zoos than they do in the wild. This shows that zoos are not always cruel.