

EXERCISE 20-3 Run-on Sentences

In the following rough draft, revise any run-on sentences.

Some parents and educators argue that requiring uniforms in public schools would improve student behavior and performance. They think that uniforms give students a more professional attitude toward school, moreover they believe that uniforms help create a sense of community among students from diverse backgrounds. Parents and educators holding these views are well meaning, however they should take a second look at the arguments against requiring school uniforms in public schools.

Uniforms do create a sense of community, they do this, however, by stamping out individuality. People spend most of their working lives having to conform to one dress code or another. Youth is a time to express originality, it is a time to develop a sense of self. One important way young people express their identities is through the clothes they wear. Of course, it could be argued that the self-patrolled dress code of high school students is ultimately stricter than that of any company, nevertheless, trying to control dress habits from above will only lead to resentment or to mindless conformity.

If children are going to act like adults, they need to be treated like adults, they need to be made responsible for their own choices. Telling young people what to wear to school merely prolongs their childhoods. Education is not just a matter of learning facts and figures, it also involves growing up and understanding how to function in the real world.

Most public schools must take everyone who applies, this includes students and parents who are opposed to school uniforms. Uniforms may be a good idea for private schools, they may even be a good idea for a few public “alternative” schools that parents and their children can choose. In most public schools, however, school uniforms should not be required.