

Unit Guide

Two Inches Above the Knee: Analyzing the Impact of School Uniforms for the Selfie Generation

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This unit is designed to allow students to explore the issue of school uniforms and dress codes. Students will learn to further develop their opinions and arguments, as uniforms are a much-debated and often-protested topic. In this unit, students will question and analyze the constitutional ramifications of uniforms, and determine if dress codes and uniforms in public schools violate their right to expression. Students who attend public and charter schools where uniforms and dress codes are in place generally oppose these dress codes, and this unit will benefit students by providing a historical context of student expression in school and the reasoning behind uniform implementation for the current, social-media obsessed generation. Students will learn how to support their perspective with evidence from peers, data from various studies and sources, and factual videos. Students will be asked to create and administer a poll, participate in a classroom debate, and provide support for their perspective on the merits and disadvantages of uniforms, and whether or not uniform codes are a violation of students' free speech. In the era of the 'selfie' as self-expression, it is my objective that this unit will further educate my students about both the merits and challenges that a school uniform can present so that they may develop their own, well-supported opinion.