

Student's Worksheet 1

ARTICLE

WRITING
comes easy

Exercise 1 Read the statements about writing articles below and decide if you agree with them or not.

1. An article should always be written in a formal style.
2. It has the same structure as a for and against essay.
3. The title should be short, but informative.
4. You should always present your opinion in an introduction.
5. You don't have to introduce the topic in your introduction.
6. It may include anecdotes, stories and descriptions.
7. It should be written in an interesting, engaging way.
8. It may give a strong opinion and convincing arguments.
9. It should include a balanced argument.
10. You may include other people's opinions or popular beliefs.
11. You may include facts and statistics.
12. Every paragraph should present one argument or viewpoint.
13. You should restate your opinion in the summary.

Exercise 2 Read the three tasks below. In each task, underline what you need to include in your article. After you have finished, read the statements in Exercise 1 again and see which of them might apply to the tasks given below.

1. *Twoja szkoła rozważa wprowadzenie mundurków szkolnych. Dyrekcja szkoły zorganizowała spotkanie z uczniami dotyczące tego projektu. Napisz artykuł do internetowej gazetki szkolnej, w której zrelacjonujesz przebieg spotkania oraz przedstawiś i uzasadniś swoje stanowisko w tej sprawie.*
2. *Coraz więcej polskich uczniów decyduje się na podjęcie studiów za granicą. Napisz artykuł do redakcji czasopisma dla młodzieży, w którym przedstawiś swoją opinię na temat słuszności takich decyzji i opisz doświadczenia osoby, które podjęła studia za granicą.*
3. *Wielu młodych ludzi w Polsce uważa, że aby dobrze zdać maturę, należy uczyć się dodatkowo poza szkołą. Napisz artykuł na stronę internetową szkoły, w którym omówiś wyniki ankiety przeprowadzonej wśród uczniów twojej szkoły na ten temat oraz przedstawiś i wyjaśniś swoje stanowisko na ten temat.*

Exercise 3 Read the titles concerning Task 1 from Exercise 2. What is their aim and what opinion are they going to present?

Do we need school uniforms?

School uniforms – a step towards equality

It's all about modesty, not fashion and money

School uniforms kill individuality

Why should we all look the same?

Goodbye creativity, welcome conformity

Equality in schools – fact or fiction?

Student's Worksheet 2

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Exercise 4 Read the introduction to Task 1 from Exercise 2. Decide which title from Exercise 3 would be the most suitable.

School authorities should not decide without us whether to introduce school uniforms. We have the right to influence their decision. Time will show whether it will have a big influence on the students' life. However, right now most of us are afraid that rather than promote creativity, this decision is going to kill it.

Exercise 5 Read Task 1 from Exercise 2 again. Then read the ideas in the columns below and add at least two arguments of your own. Decide which arguments you would use, and which your school colleagues might use in discussion.

Arguments for school uniforms	Arguments against school uniforms
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• promoting equality• no race to follow the latest trends and fashions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• no chance to show your style, personality, etc.• students might look unattractive
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•

Exercise 6 Write down what your opinion is on school uniforms. Then choose a title from Exercise 3 that matches your standpoint, or write your own title.

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Student's Worksheet 3

ARTICLE

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Exercise 7 Replace the verbs in the sentences below with one of the synonyms in the box. Use two verbs or phrases for each sentence. You may need to add or get rid of some words.

accept be in agreement debate go along with oppose
present put forward presume reject talk

1. The headmaster disagreed with some of the students' arguments.
2. Some students believe that uniforms will allow students to focus on learning more.
3. Most students expressed the opinion that it will be difficult to find a design which will suit all of the students.
4. Both the students and school authorities discussed the issue for almost two hours.
5. The majority of the students agreed that the matter needed further discussion.

Exercise 8 Match the nouns from the box with the verbs below. Then add more nouns to make collocations with the verbs.

conformity diversity express yourself
individuality social justice better atmosphere

1. contribute to
2. deny the right to
3. encourage
4. favour
5. lead to
6. promote

Exercise 9 Read the second paragraph of an article written on the topic of school uniforms. Complete it with verbs from Exercises 7 and 8.

Last week we invited our head teacher and her deputy to meet with us and (1) _____ their proposal to us. After they (2) _____ forward their views, we had a chance to say what our opinion is. According to our school authorities, the introduction of school uniforms will (3) _____ to social equality, as right now students are able to demonstrate their social status by the way they dress. As a result, students who are not able to afford expensive and trendy clothes may feel inferior. Some students (4) _____ with that proposal, while others (5) _____ it, saying that it is going to suppress their creativity. The authorities' initiative triggered a heated debate, which lasted for over two hours. However, no compromise was reached. The head teacher suggested that we meet again and (6) _____ the issue further, but she also said that it is fact a decision to be made by the school, not the students.

Student's Worksheet 4

ARTICLE

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Exercise 10 Divide the phrases below into the columns. Then underline the phrases that you would like to use in your article.

as far as I'm concerned
I am of the opinion that
I'd like to point out that
I firmly believe that
I have no doubt that
I'm absolutely convinced that
it is generally accepted that
it seems to me that
it is widely believed that
many people are of the opinion that
most people agree that
personally, I think that
some people claim that

To express your opinion	To give other people's opinion

Exercise 11 Read the third paragraph of an article written on the topic of school uniforms. Discuss the questions below.

It is generally accepted that appearances can be deceptive and that we shouldn't judge others by the way they look. However, for us, teenagers, our appearance does matter. There are a lot of things we can express using the clothes, shoes, hairstyles and jewellery that we choose to wear, and I'm sure that lots of my colleagues would agree with me on that. Why forbid that? In the name of what? Social justice? I'm absolutely convinced that some people will find ways to show their social status and wealth – if not by the choice of their clothes, then smart phones or bags. Most people agree that schools should promote creativity and teach independent thinking. Isn't a school uniform going to discourage rather than encourage this?

1. How far do you agree with the opinion of the author?
2. How effective is the use of rhetorical questions?
3. How effective is the underlined phrase? Would I think carry the same meaning?

Student's Worksheet 5

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Exercise 12 Read the three final paragraphs (A–C) of the article and choose which one matches the previous two paragraphs best.

A.

School uniforms used to be a norm and are still a fact in some Polish schools. Why not come back to old traditions and start treating schools with respect? Wouldn't uniforms be a good way to promote order and hierarchy?

B.

All in all, whatever our school authorities decide, we will find ways to show our independence. However, we should insist that we will be heard - so, get ready for a debate! If we can't change it, at least we should present our views.

C.

The truth is, as with every controversial decision, there are going to be people who will support it and those who will disagree with it. Time will show what long-term effects introducing uniforms will bring to our school.

Homework Read the task below and write an article. You can use the title, the ideas and the language from the above exercises. Use the 5-step writing programme to write your article.

Twoja szkoła planuje wprowadzenie ograniczeń związanych z wyglądem uczniów (zakaz farbowania włosów i noszenia awangardowych fryzur, np. dredów, malowania się, noszenia wielu kolczyków, itp.). Uczniowie szkoły zorganizowali spotkanie dotyczące tego planu. Napisz artykuł na stronę internetową szkoły, w którym zrelacjonujesz przebieg spotkania oraz przedstawisz i uzasadnisz swoje stanowisko w tej sprawie.

- 1. IDEAS:** Read the instructions carefully to decide what you need to include in your essay. First, generate ideas for your article. Write down any concepts that come to your mind and are related to the issue.
- 2. RESOURCES:** Decide what linkers you are going to use. Think about vocabulary items you might want to use, e.g. phrases, collocations, etc.
- 3. STRUCTURE:** Draw a plan of your article. Write down what arguments you are going to use.
- 4. WRITE** your article.
- 5. CHECK:** Check your article for all of the criteria that are relevant for a given task type:
 - addressing all of the elements of the instructions
 - appropriate structure
 - sufficient length (180–280 words, make sure it's not fewer than 160)
 - cohesion, coherence and logical development
 - a variety of linguistic resources
 - accuracy