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Name _____ STAAR Practice Date _____

Guided Reading

Read this selection. Then answer the questions that follow.

Uniform Style

A student wrote this letter to the editor of her local newspaper. In it, she argues in favor of students wearing uniforms in public schools.

- 1 Why are more and more public schools in the United States considering uniforms? "It's the whole issue of setting a tone for the day," says Mary Marquez, an elementary school principal in a California school district that recently made uniforms mandatory. "When students are in their uniforms, they know they are going to school to learn, not going outside to play."
- 2 If dressing in the latest fashions makes kids feel hip and cool, does wearing a school uniform make them feel more like serious students? Many teachers and principals say yes. They believe that uniforms encourage their students to live up to higher standards and that they promote school spirit, discipline, and academic excellence.
- 3 But what about the right to individuality, creativity, and expression? That's what some civil liberties' experts are concerned about, and many students and parents agree. Some have even gone so far as to bring lawsuits against schools that won't let students wear what they like.

ROOTS AND AFFIXES
Understanding word parts can help you figure out word meanings. In paragraph 1, the word *mandatory* is formed from the word *mandate*, meaning "command." The suffix *-ory* means "of or relating to." *Mandatory* means "required."

TEKS 2A

ELEMENTS OF PERSUASIVE TEXT
In paragraph 3, the author describes an opposing viewpoint on the issue of school uniforms. Compare the reasons supporting this claim (that students should not have to wear uniforms) with the reasons supporting the author's claim.

TEKS 11A

4 Still, many parents, tired of spending money month after month to buy trendy clothing for their children, are only too pleased to have uniforms settle the question once and for all. Many students also welcome an end to clothing competition. "I don't worry about what I wear in the morning," says a twelve-year-old uniform wearer. "I just slip on the clothes." Students from wealthy families no longer show off their expensive clothes at school, and students who can't afford them won't face being teased about the way they dress. Of course, buying school uniforms can be hard on the pocketbook as well. However, a number of schools have started programs to help parents pay for them.

PERSUASIVE TECHNIQUE

A testimonial is a persuasive technique that relies on the opinion of a well-known person, an expert, or a satisfied customer. In paragraph 4, the author provides the testimonial of a student who supports school uniforms.

TEKS 13C

5 Some of the statements made by supporters of uniforms may seem exaggerated—for example, how could requiring students to dress alike make public schools safer? But there are logical arguments to back up this claim. Fights are less likely to break out over a leather jacket or a \$150 pair of sneakers if no one is wearing such items to school. Those who don't belong on school grounds stand out among students wearing school uniforms.

FAULTY REASONING

Exaggeration is an example of faulty reasoning that weakens an argument. In paragraph 5, the author admits that some of the claims made about uniforms do seem exaggerated. However, the author provides evidence in paragraphs 5 and 6 to support the claims about safety.

TEKS 11B

6 In one California district, statistics tell the story: School crime went down 36 percent after students began wearing uniforms. Fighting dropped 51 percent and vandalism 18 percent. Other districts that began requiring uniforms report similar improvements.

7 In public school districts across the country, the jury is still out on the question of school uniforms. But with so many possible benefits for our own school, I say, why not give uniforms a try?

5 The supporting evidence the author provides in paragraph 6 is best described as —

- A a testimonial
- B a set of statistics
- C an emotional appeal
- D a bandwagon appeal

Remember, you can look up any words you don't know.

6 Which of the following best describes the overall structure of the text?

- F The author provides a series of strong reasons for adopting school uniforms, then proposes that her school should adopt them.
- G The author claims that her school should adopt a uniform policy, then gives reasons.
- H The author provides a fairly equal number of views for and against uniforms, then gives her own view.
- J The author explores the pros and cons of uniforms but does not put forward a proposal.



Use "Uniform Style" (pp. 33–34) to answer questions 1–6.

- 1 Which of the following best describes the persuasive technique used in paragraph 1?
- A The author relies on the testimonial of a school principal who supports uniforms.
 - B The author suggests that readers should be angry about underperforming schools.
 - C The author reasons that all schools should require uniforms because others do.
 - D The author exaggerates the effect school uniforms have in helping students focus on their schoolwork.

- 2 Which of the following best summarizes the reasoning provided in paragraph 3 for the opposing point of view?
- F Students have a right to decide what they want to wear.
 - G Many parents think that school uniforms are a cause for concern.
 - H Schools have been challenged in court over the issue of uniforms.
 - J Civil liberties experts feel that uniforms make it hard for students to communicate.

3 Read the following dictionary entry.

expression \ɪk sprɛʃh̄ ən\ *n.*
 1. communication in words, art, music, or movement 2. a particular phrase or saying 3. a facial look that conveys a feeling 4. the act of pressing or squeezing out

What is the definition of expression as it is used in paragraph 3?

- A Definition 1
- B Definition 2
- C Definition 3
- D Definition 4

- 4 The reasoning in paragraph 4 supports the conclusion that uniforms —
- F are uncomfortable for many students
 - G are more expensive than other clothes
 - H promote a sense of equality among students
 - J encourage more parents to get involved in their children's schools