

# Workshop #2

## Composition 2

**Instructions:** Read the paragraph and analyze the main content. Write the Main claim, evidence, counterargument, and refutation.

School uniforms should be required in public schools because they promote equality and reduce distractions. When all students wear the same clothing, it minimizes visible economic differences and helps prevent bullying based on fashion or brand names. A study by the National Education Association (2020) found that schools with uniform policies reported fewer incidents of peer pressure and social exclusion. Some opponents argue that uniforms limit self-expression. However, students can still express their individuality through hairstyles, accessories, and their behavior and opinions. In fact, removing the pressure to dress a certain way may even help students focus more on their personal identity and academic goals. Ultimately, the benefits of unity and focus outweigh the concerns about limited wardrobe choices.

**Main Claim:**

**Evidence:**

**Counterargument:**

**Refutation:**

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Plastic bags should be banned in supermarkets to reduce environmental pollution and encourage sustainable habits. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans use over 100 billion plastic bags annually, and a large percentage of these end up in oceans, harming marine life. Unlike paper or cloth bags, plastic bags can take hundreds of years to decompose. Critics claim that reusable bags are inconvenient and expensive. However, many stores now offer affordable, foldable alternatives that are both sturdy and easy to carry. Furthermore, some countries that have banned plastic bags, like Rwanda and Bangladesh, have seen significant improvements in cleanliness and waste management. A small lifestyle change can have a large positive environmental impact.

**Main Claim:**

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While social media has revolutionized communication, its overuse can negatively affect mental health, especially among teenagers. Studies by the American Psychological Association (2023) have shown a correlation between excessive social media use and increased rates of anxiety and depression. Teenagers often compare themselves to idealized images online, leading to lower self-esteem and body dissatisfaction. Supporters of social media argue that it helps young people stay connected and informed. However, the constant exposure to filtered lifestyles and online validation can create unhealthy expectations and emotional pressure. Social media isn't inherently harmful, but without mindful use and boundaries, it can become a source of stress rather than support. For these reasons, users—especially adolescents—should limit screen time and prioritize offline relationships.

**Main Claim:**

**Evidence:**

**Counterargument:**

**Refutation:**

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I do not think students should use cell phones in class because they're distracting. I've seen a lot of people texting or scrolling through social media instead of paying attention to the lesson. It's just annoying. People say that phones can help with learning because of educational apps, but I don't see how they help in class. Most of the time, students just check Instagram or TikTok. I think phones should be banned during lessons. They're bad for focus and cause people to miss important things. It's just better without them.

**Main Claim:**

**Evidence:**

**Counterargument:**

**Refutation:**

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Homework is really bad for students. It takes too long and makes people tired. After spending all day in school, students should not have to keep working at home. Most of my friends agree that homework is stressful and pointless. Some teachers say it helps with learning, but I don't think that's true. Sometimes we just copy the answers anyway. I think schools should just stop giving homework. People would be happier and less stressed.

**Main Claim:**

**Evidence:**

**Counterargument:**

**Refutation:**

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Fast food is bad for you, and people should stop eating it. I watched a documentary once that showed how unhealthy it is. It said that fast food can make you fat and cause problems. Some people think it's okay if you only eat it sometimes, but I still think it's not good for anyone. It's greasy and full of calories. I don't understand why people eat it so much. I think we need to stop eating it.

**Main Claim:**

**Evidence:**

**Counterargument:**

**Refutation:**