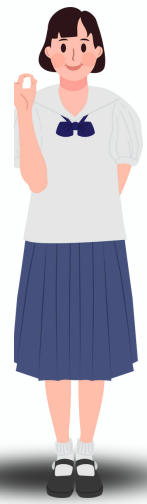




# Uniforms or Unique?



## Social Scenarios



**A series of social situations designed to allow students to develop the skills of leadership, decision-making and perspective. Let's put ourselves in the shoes of others before making any decisions.**

**Can you make a decision and keep everyone satisfied?**

**Created by**



**Designed in**

*Canva*

# Your Instructions

This week, we have an exciting challenge for you! Imagine you're the principal of a middle school, just like Samantha. Principals are leaders who often have to make tough decisions, especially when it comes to school policies like dress codes. This week, you'll get to think like a principal and make a decision that affects everyone in the school.

We're going to talk about something called compromise. Compromise means finding a solution that works for everyone, even if it means giving up a little bit of what you want. When making decisions, it's important to think about how your choice will affect students, teachers, and parents. Even though you're the one making the final decision, you want to make sure it's fair and thoughtful.

To get started, read through the information on the following pages. This will help you understand the situation and what's at stake. Once you've read everything, work with your team to come up with the best decision. Then, share your ideas with the class so everyone can discuss and debate. Remember, the key is to think about how your decision will impact others and to use compromise to guide you.

Step	Action
1	Imagine You're the Principal: Pretend you're the principal of a middle school.
2	Learn About Compromise: Understand how to find a solution that works for everyone.
3	Read the Scenario: Read the story about the school's dress code policy.
4	Work as a Team: Discuss ideas and listen to each other's perspectives.
5	Analyze the Impact: Think about the good and bad outcomes for students, parents, and teachers.
6	Come Up with a Solution: Decide on the best, fairest solution that balances everyone's needs.
7	Prepare a 2-Minute Talk: Plan a short presentation with your team.
8	Present Your Decision: Share your solution with the class.
9	Vote as a Class: Vote anonymously to decide the best solution.
10	Reflect and Discuss: Talk about what you learned and how compromise helped.

# Social Scenario #2

## Uniform or Unique?

'I need the children to have a choice, but I'm worried about them being distracted.'

Read the social scenario below and as a group, decide what you think the best option would be. You have only **1 hour** to make your decision and share it with the class for debate!!

### Read the scenario below and help Samantha decide.

Samantha is the principal of a middle school and has to make a decision regarding the dress code policy. Currently, the school has a strict dress code that prohibits students from wearing anything other than solid colour shirts and pants, with no visible logos or designs. The school has been receiving complaints from parents and students that the dress code is too restrictive and unfair.

Some argue that it doesn't allow students to express their individuality and creativity, while others believe that it creates a more professional and serious learning environment. Samantha has to decide whether to keep the current dress code policy or make changes to it. If she keeps the policy as is, it could lead to more complaints and potentially a loss of enrolments. If she changes the policy to allow for more flexibility, it could lead to some students wearing inappropriate or distracting clothing and potentially harm the learning environment.

What should Samantha do? How can she balance the needs and opinions of both parents, students, and the school's board?

Compromise is when we make changes to help everyone.

### The Children

'I would like to decide how I dress for school. It should be my choice.'

### The Parents

'I want my children to feel that they have the voice and choice to decide for themselves.'

### The Board

'If the children can wear whatever they like, then this could affect our reputation!'

### These questions may help you make your decision!

1. How do dress codes in schools vary across different regions or countries, and what are the reasons for these differences?
2. What are some alternative dress code policies that other schools have implemented, and what were the outcomes?
3. How do clothing choices impact self-expression and identity, and why is it important for students to have this outlet?
4. What is the history behind dress codes in schools, and how have they evolved over time?
5. What are some ways that schools can enforce a dress code policy without infringing on students' rights or causing unnecessary conflict?
6. What are some potential consequences of having a strict dress code policy, such as body shaming, bullying, or exclusion?
7. How do dress codes impact different gender identities and expressions, and what are some ways to make dress codes more inclusive?

### key Vocabulary

choice	opinion
freedom	agency
unique	board
compromise	enrolment
rules	independent



# Before you Begin

Here are a few things to remember!

## Imagination and Creativity

You are about to imagine that you are somebody else. From this point onwards, you must put yourself in the shoes of Samantha, a School Principal.



## Teamwork and Communication

To make such big decisions like these, you'll need to find a group of people to help you discuss the various options before you make your final decision. Teamwork makes the dream work.



## Skills you will Develop

- Compassion
- Global Awareness
- Attentive Hearing
- Cooperation
- Collective Effort
- Analytical Reasoning
- Guidance
- Viewpoint
- 

Now, let's get started!

# Perspective is Everything

"Before deciding anything, it's important to step into the shoes of those who will be impacted by our choice. This is known as seeing things from their perspective. By taking the time to truly understand their feelings and needs, we can make a decision that is fair and benefits everyone involved."

*"You are the sum total of everything you've ever seen, heard, eaten, smelled, been told, forgot - it's all there. Everything influences each of us, and because of that, I try to make sure that my experiences are positive."*

- Maya Angelou



# Students

Follow the flowchart provided below and work together as a team to answer all the questions. Once you have reached a decision, remember to write your key message to the Students at the bottom of the page.



'I would like to decide how I dress for school. It should be my choice.'

If we keep the uniform policy how will students be affected?

If we change the uniform policy how will students be affected?

What are the negative effects?

What are the positive effects?

How can we protect them from the negative impacts?

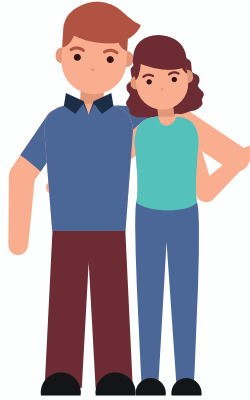
Overall thoughts

Your message to the students.



# Parents

Follow the flowchart provided below and work together as a team to answer all the questions. Once you have reached a decision, remember to write your key message to the parents at the bottom of the page.



'We want our children to feel that they have the voice and choice to decide for themselves.'

If we keep the uniform policy how will parents be affected?

If we change the uniform policy how will parents be affected?

What are the negative effects?

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What are the positive effects?

[Empty rounded rectangular box for positive effects]

[Empty rounded rectangular box for positive effects]

How can we protect them from the negative impacts?

Overall thoughts

Your message to the parents.

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# The School Board

Follow the flowchart provided below and work together as a team to answer all the questions. Once you have reached a decision, remember to write your key message to the board at the bottom of the page.



'If the children can wear whatever they like, then this could affect our reputation!'

If we keep the uniform policy how will School be affected?

If we change the uniform policy how will school be affected?

What are the negative effects?

What are the positive effects?

How can we protect them from the negative impacts?

Overall thoughts

Your message to the board

# Sharing Your Decision

Once you have discussed the situation from all perspectives, it is now time to share your decision with the rest of the class. Prepare a **2-minute speech** to communicate your decision, explain the rationale behind it, and outline your plans to ensure everyone's satisfaction. Good luck!



'Good morning, and thank you all for allowing me to express my heartfelt thoughts on a matter of great significance for our school community. As the principal of this wonderful institution, I come before you today with a decision that holds the potential to shape the future of our students' learning journey. It's a decision that stirs within me a profound sense of responsibility and a genuine desire to ensure the best for each and every one of our students. Let me take this moment to share the compelling reasons behind our new uniform policy and how we believe it can benefit all.'



## Here are five simple steps on using body language to deliver a good speech:

**Prepare:** Prioritize a topic that interests you, gather information, and create an outline with key points to practice speaking aloud.

**Grab attention:** Begin with an engaging opening, such as a captivating fact or thought-provoking question.

**Speak clearly and confidently:** Utilize a clear and expressive tone, maintain eye contact, and speak at a moderate pace.

**Use visual aids or props (if needed):** Enhance your speech with relevant pictures or objects that support your points.

**End memorably:** Summarise your main points and leave the audience with a memorable conclusion or a compelling call to action.

# Cast Your Vote

Once all groups have delivered their speeches, it's time for an anonymous class vote to see the public opinion. This is like how democratic nations vote in new leaders or make decisions on how the country should be run. This is your chance to use your voice to make a difference and save the world.

Although this scenario is fictional, one day you will be asked to cast your vote on a real issue that will affect people you have never met. This week, we will practice these essential skills.

As a class, write your decision on a piece of paper, and after everyone has voted, tally the totals and announce the decision to the class. Everyone deserves a voice, and this is your chance to use yours.

