


How (not) to use arguments



**Landesbildungsserver
Baden-Württemberg**

What's wrong here?

“First, uniforms prevent young people and parents from spending too much money on certain designer labels or brands. Second, uniforms enable pupils and students to identify with their schools. And finally, uniforms would encourage students to build an identity not based on fashion. “

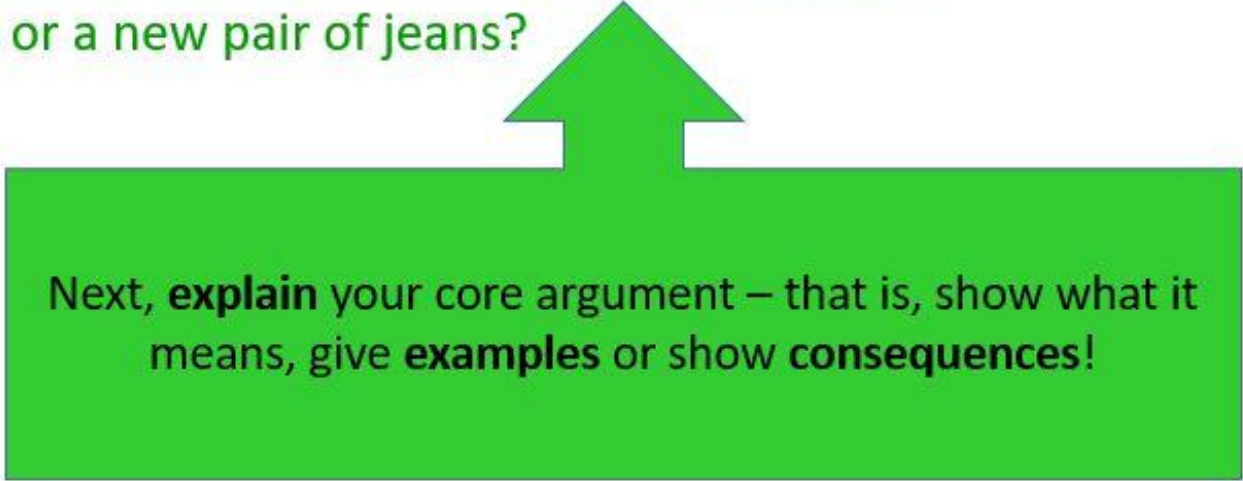


Don't just **list** arguments! If you want to be convincing you will have to **work** with your arguments...

core argument



First of all, **school uniforms would be a lot easier on the parents' wallets**. Of course school uniforms cost money, too, but how often will a child need a new school blazer? In comparison, just look at how often fashion changes and how often a new brand of jeans or trainers is "in". How often would a parent have to buy new trainers, or a new pair of jeans?




Next, **explain** your core argument – that is, show what it means, give **examples** or show **consequences**!

Use a **topic sentence** for every new argument you want to use
– this is a sort of mini-introduction to your core argument.



When it comes to school uniforms, let us first consider the monetary aspect. One closer look at the price labels of the kinds of clothes children and teenagers like to wear might give an unsuspecting parent a bad shock. Unfortunately, this is only the beginning of it: Today, a typical teenager will want the right pair of trainers, tomorrow he will ask for a torn pair of jeans because he does not want to look different from his mates, and the day after tomorrow he will stop wearing those jeans again because now you have to turn up in baggies that will only look cool to a fifteen-year-old. I am convinced that there are better ways of spending money on a child than buying designer clothes. **And do we really want children to be slaves of fashion?**



If you manage to find a snappy way of rounding off your paragraph – great! You could use a rhetoric question, a witty remark etc.



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