



Teacher Guide

Sample Items

English Language Arts (ELA)

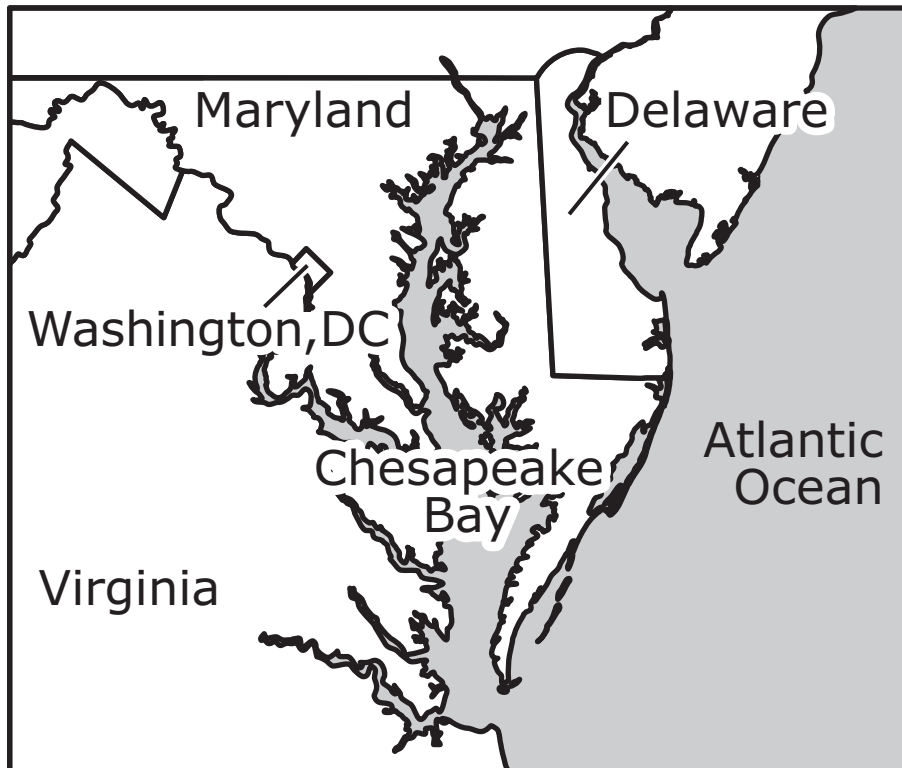
Grades 8 & High School

ELA Grade 8

Directions

We are going to read an informational text and a poster about the Chesapeake Bay region.

The Chesapeake Bay Region



The Chesapeake Bay region is a special place. It is a body of water that touches many different areas: Maryland; Virginia; Delaware; Washington, DC; and the Atlantic Ocean. It has an important history, and it is an interesting place to visit.

The History of the Chesapeake Bay Region

The name Chesapeake is from a Native American word. The Algonquian people are Native American people. They lived in the region before Europeans came to North America. They called the bay “Chesepiooc.”

Life in the Chesapeake Bay Region



The bay includes both fresh water and salt water. Water from rivers and an ocean flow into it. Many plants, animals, and people live in and around the bay.

People get together to help keep the bay clean and safe for everyone. Fishermen work there. Catching crabs is their specialty. A lot of goods from all over the world are shipped in and out of the bay.

The Chesapeake Bay region is also a fun tourist **destination**. Many people come to visit it.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel



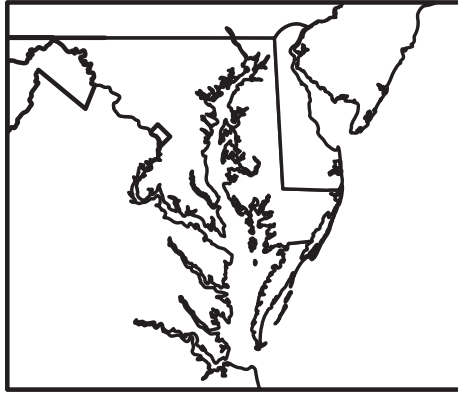
Courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

A special road was built at the bay in Virginia. It is called the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. The road is a bridge. It is also a tunnel. Cars go on the bridge over the water. Cars also go through the tunnel under the water. Ships can still move in the water. The bridge-tunnel connects two states and is 17.6 miles long.

Lots of people visit the bay region to play in it and see its amazing sites! It is an important place in the United States.

Now we are going to read a poster about saving the Chesapeake Bay.

Save the Bay Day



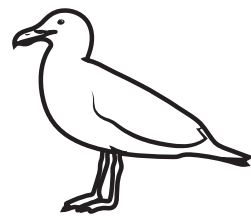
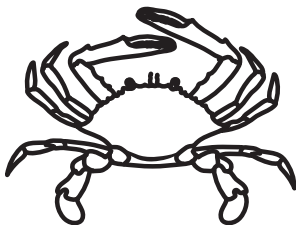
Who: People who care about the Chesapeake Bay

What: A cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay

When: June 5th, 8 A.M.—noon

Where: Rivers, streams, and beaches of the Chesapeake Bay

Why: To help clean the bay for the animals and plants that live there

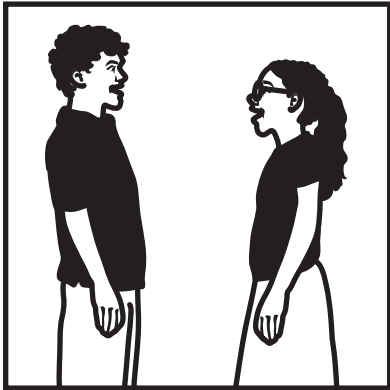


Item 1

The topic is what the text is about.

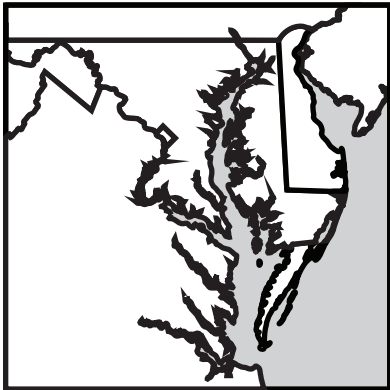
What is the topic of the text and the poster?

☐



friends

☐

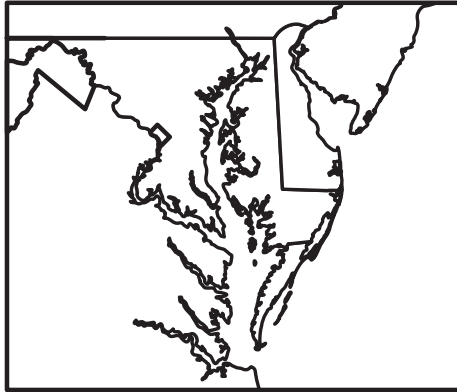


the Chesapeake Bay

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

We are going to read the poster again.

Save the Bay Day



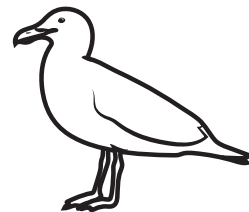
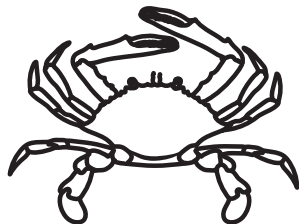
Who: People who care about the Chesapeake Bay

What: A cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay

When: June 5th, 8 A.M.—noon

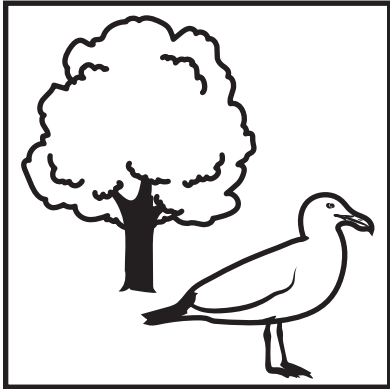
Where: Rivers, streams, and beaches of the Chesapeake Bay

Why: To help clean the bay for the animals and plants that live there



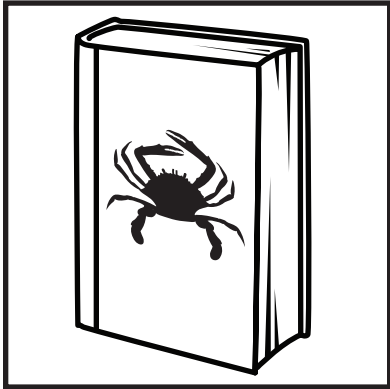
Why do people want to clean up the bay?

☐



to keep it safe for plants and animals

☐



to read a book about it

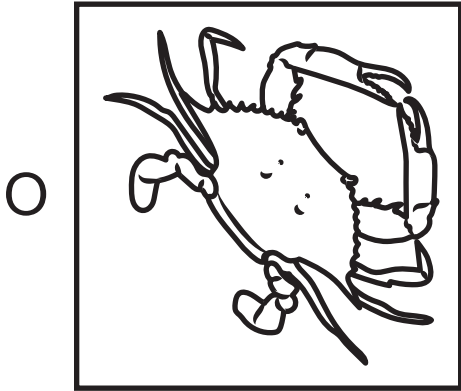
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 3

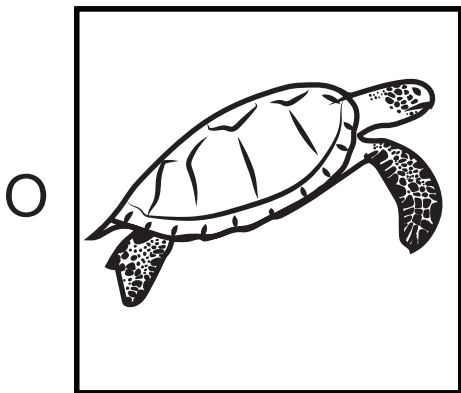
We are going to read part of the text again. Listen for a key detail of the paragraph.

People get together to help keep the bay clean and safe for everyone. Fishermen work there. Catching crabs is their specialty. A lot of goods from all over the world are shipped in and out of the bay.

Which sentence supports this paragraph?



Fishermen catch crabs in the Chesapeake Bay.



Sea turtles bury their eggs in the sand.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 4

We are going to read part of the text again.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel



Courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

A special road was built at the bay in Virginia. It is called the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. The road is a bridge. It is also a tunnel. Cars go on the bridge over the water. Cars also go through the tunnel under the water. Ships can still move in the water. The bridge-tunnel connects two states and is 17.6 miles long.

Lots of people visit the bay region to play in it and see its amazing sites! It is an important place in the United States.

Why is the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel a special road?

O



© iStock.com / AnnaBreit

The sunlight melts the snow on trees.

O



Courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

It goes above and below the water.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 5

We are going to read part of the text again.

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel



Courtesy of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

A special road was built at the bay in Virginia. It is called the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel. The road is a bridge. It is also a tunnel. Cars go on the bridge over the water. Cars also go through the tunnel under the water. Ships can still move in the water. The bridge-tunnel connects two states and is 17.6 miles long.

Lots of people visit the bay region to play in it and see its amazing sites! It is an important place in the United States.

A fact is something that is true. What is a fact about the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel?

O



Christopher Kreymborg / Alamy Stock Photo

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel is fun to see.

O



Westend61 / Getty Images

The Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel is 17.6 miles long.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 6

We are going to read part of the text again. Listen for clues that tell what the word **destination** means.

The Chesapeake Bay region is also a fun tourist **destination**. Many people come to visit it.

What does the word **destination** mean in this sentence?

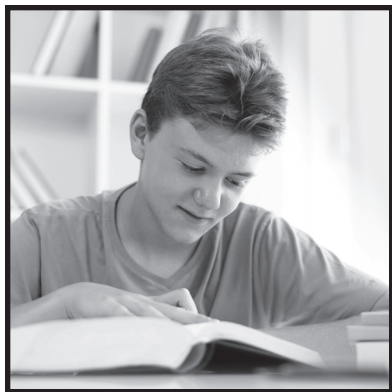
☐



© Vilant / Dreamstime.com

a place to go to

☐



© iStock.com / Topalov

a way to learn more

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 7

Writers include reasons to support their claims.

Justin wants his principal to require school uniforms. He is writing a letter to persuade his principal to agree with him. This is the claim that Justin writes in his letter.

Students should wear school uniforms.

Which reason should Justin use to persuade his principal that students should wear school uniforms?



Shirts come in many different patterns.



School uniforms will make it easier for students to select their clothes each morning.

○



Students will not like school uniforms because they will all wear the same thing.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 8

Bo is writing an article for his school newspaper. He plans to use information from a local garden store newsletter.

Which fact from the newsletter should he use to convince the science club to grow a vegetable garden?

- ☐ Many families grow flowers in their own gardens.
- ☐ Students can learn about growing their own food.
- ☐ People buy fruits and vegetables at the grocery store.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 9

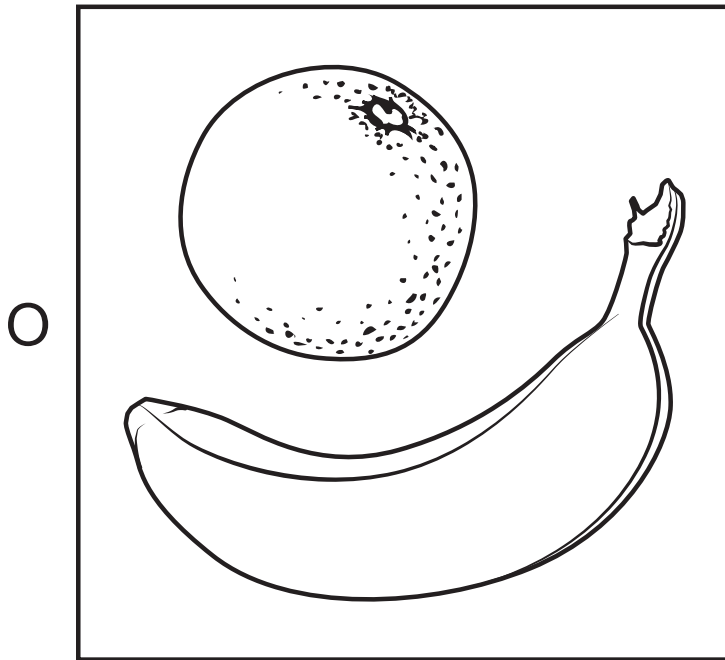
You are going to write an essay about a problem and a way to solve it. One example of a problem is that there are weeds in the garden, and the vegetables cannot grow.



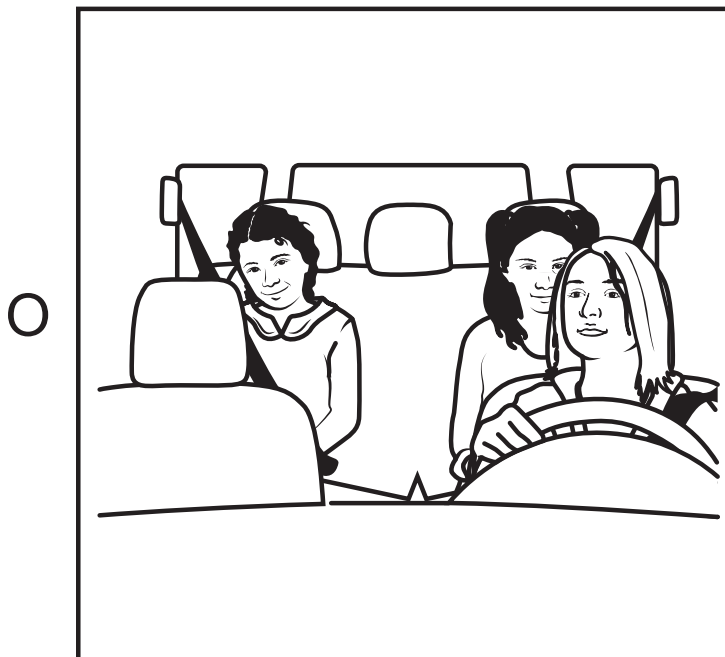
A way to solve the problem is to pull the weeds out of the garden.



Which sentence is about a problem and a way to solve it?



Oranges and bananas are both alike and different.



When you miss the school bus, a way to solve the problem is to get a ride with someone else.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

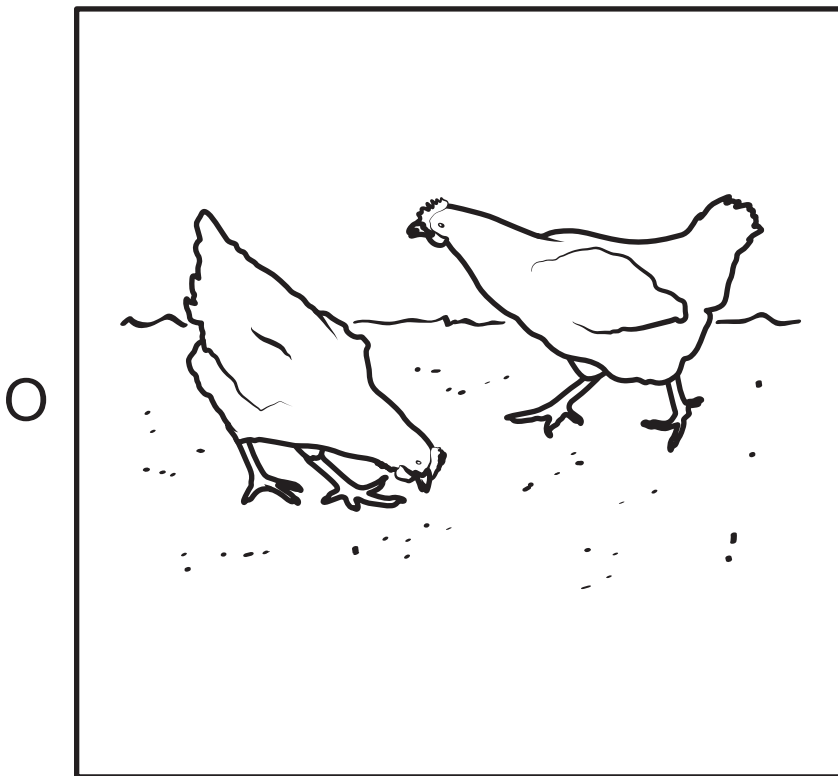
Item 10

The sentence “When you miss the school bus, a way to solve the problem is to get a ride with someone else” is about a problem and a way to solve the problem.

Now you will write an essay about how getting a ride with someone else solves the problem of missing the school bus.

Choose the sentence for the introduction of your essay. Remember, the introduction should describe what the problem is.

Which sentence tells what the problem is?



I will tell about chickens and how to raise them.

O



I will tell about a way to solve the problem of missing the school bus.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 11

Your introduction is “I will tell about a way to solve the problem of missing the school bus.” A solution to the problem of missing the school bus is to get a ride with someone else.

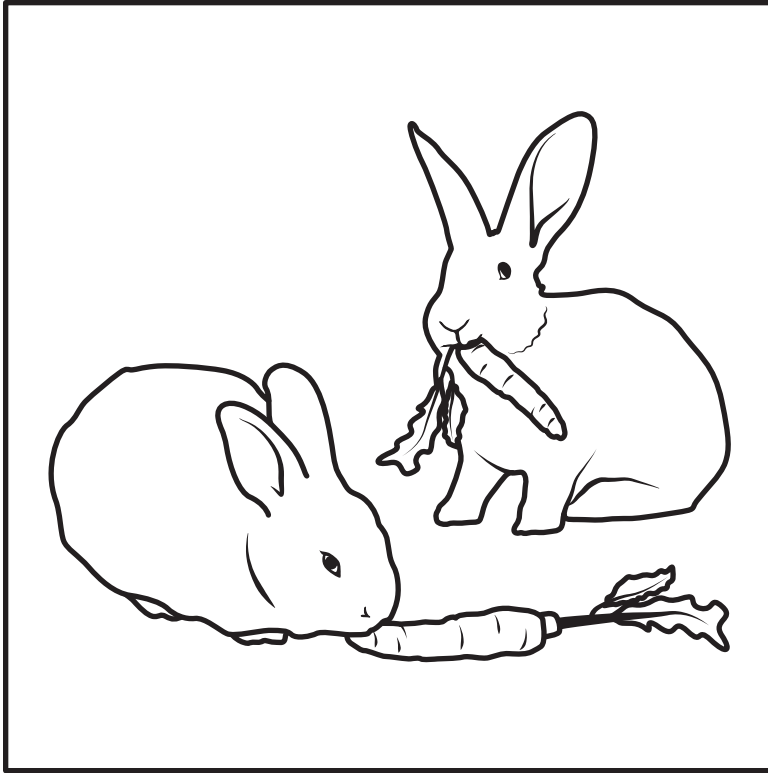
Which sentence gives an example about how you can get a ride with someone else?

O



You can call a friend for a ride.

O



Rabbits eat carrots.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 12

The sentence “You can call a friend for a ride” gives an example about how you can get a ride with someone else.

Precise words and details help readers imagine the words in their minds. For example, “The bright yellow bus” has more precise words and details than “The bus.”

Which sentence uses precise words and details to help readers imagine the words in their minds?



You can call your mom at her office to ask for a ride.

O



You can read about it.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 13

The sentence “You can call your mom at her office to ask for a ride” uses precise words and details to help readers imagine getting a ride to school after missing the bus. There are words that help readers understand the connection between a problem and a way to solve it. For example, “if” and “then” are two words that can help connect a problem to a way to solve it. Listen to these two sentences.

Which sentence uses “if” and “then”?

- ☐ Missing the school bus is like getting a ride with someone else.
- ☐ If you miss the school bus, then get a ride with someone else.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 14

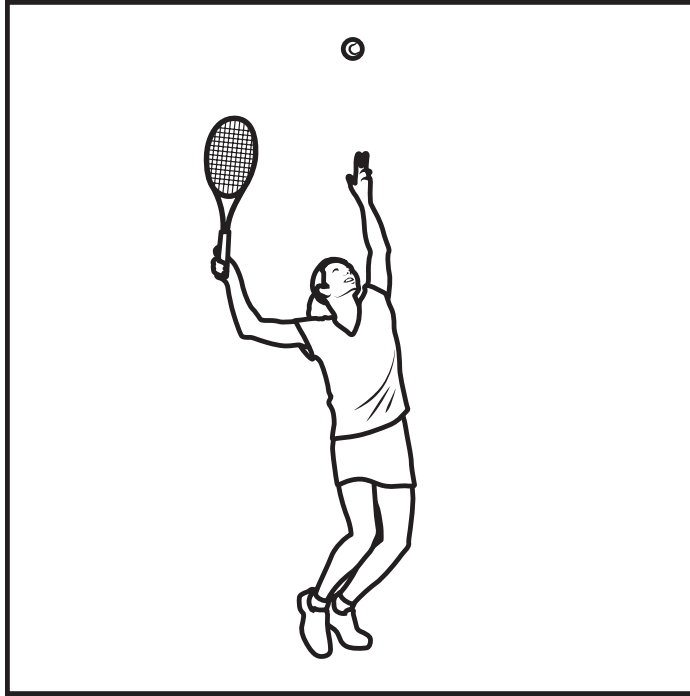
The sentence “If you miss the school bus, then get a ride with someone else” uses the signal words “if” and “then” to help readers understand the connection between a problem and a way to solve it.

Now, I will read what you have already written. Then you will choose a sentence for the conclusion. Remember, a conclusion tells what the essay was about.“

I will tell about a way to solve the problem of missing the school bus. You can call a friend for a ride. You can call your mom at her office to ask for a ride. If you miss the school bus, then get a ride with someone else.”

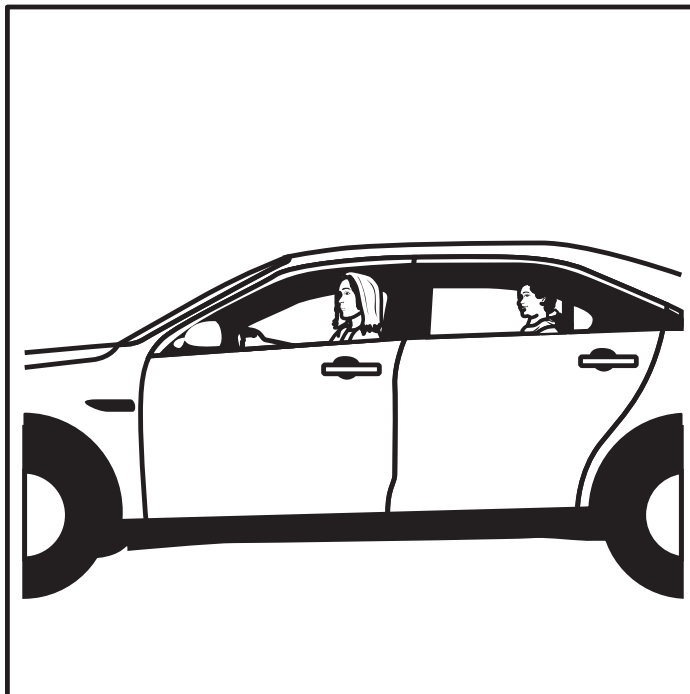
Which is the best conclusion to your essay that tells about a way to solve the problem of missing the school bus?

O



In conclusion, tennis is a sport.

O



In conclusion, if you miss the school bus, find a ride with a friend or your mom.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

The best conclusion to your essay is “In conclusion, if you miss the school bus, find a ride with a friend or your mom.”

Now I will read your entire essay to you.

I will tell about a way to solve the problem of missing the school bus. You can call a friend for a ride. You can call your mom at her office to ask for a ride. If you miss the school bus, then get a ride with someone else. In conclusion, if you miss the school bus, find a ride with a friend or your mom.

ELA High School

Directions

We are going to read an informational text and a chart about volunteering in your community. Let's read the text first.

Volunteering

Volunteering is when a person performs a task that helps others. Volunteers are not paid for their service. Instead, they take pride and joy in making the lives of others better. Are you interested in volunteering? Chances are good that your community has a variety of volunteering opportunities your family can help you choose from.



Wikimedia Commons

No matter how you look at it, volunteering helps everyone! John F. Kennedy was the thirty-fifth president of the United States. Kennedy inspired many people to volunteer more. He once said to a large crowd of Americans, “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” In his speech,

Kennedy called on American citizens to improve their country by serving it. One way to serve is to volunteer in your community. Everyone should become a volunteer.



© iStock.com / kali9

Many towns need help keeping their parks, sidewalks, and roads clean and maintained. A simple way to volunteer is to pick up trash from these areas. If you want to be more involved in taking care of parks, you can contact your city government to find out how to become part of the crew that maintains the parks.



© iStock.com / Steve Debenport

Food pantries are another place to volunteer in your community. Food pantries provide food to those who cannot afford to buy it. There are a couple of ways to help at your local food pantry. You can donate canned food. You can also help by working at the food pantry. You might be asked to organize food on the shelves. Another task you may be given is to prepare boxes of food. You might also be asked to help clean the pantry shelves.

Animal shelters perform an important function in a community. They save homeless animals. They also help keep people safe from stray animals that may be dangerous. Animal shelters usually need help. They often rely on volunteers to play with and walk the animals. This human contact helps the animals stay friendly. This will help the animals get adopted. Animal shelters also need help keeping their facility clean. Volunteers can help clean food dishes and bedding. This helps the animals stay healthy.


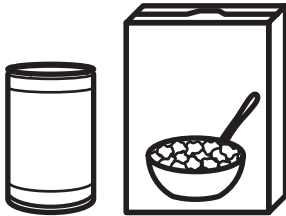


© iStock.com / asiseeit

Volunteering not only helps the community, it also helps improve the life of the volunteer. Volunteers learn **invaluable** and meaningful job skills, such as being on time, being reliable, and cooperating with others. In fact, studies show that volunteers in need of work are 27% more likely to find a job. Being a volunteer will likely make your own life better. When you serve others, you will feel proud of yourself. Plus, while you're volunteering, you will meet like minded people who are also generous and caring. Are you interested in volunteering? A good place to start is by talking to someone who works at your school.

Now let's read and look at a chart about volunteering. After we read, you will be asked questions about how the text and this chart are the same.

How Volunteering Helps


Ways to volunteer	How does it help?
 <p>Pick up garbage in a park</p>	<p>Keeps parks clean and safe for people and animals</p>
 <p>Organize food on shelves at a food pantry</p>	<p>Helps provide food to people who don't have enough food to eat</p>
 <p>Play with an animal at an animal shelter</p>	<p>Helps the animals stay friendly for when they find a new home</p>

Item 1

We will read parts of the text and the chart again. A chart lists information by topic. Use information from both the text and the chart to answer this question.

Animal shelters perform an important function in a community. They save homeless animals. They also help keep people safe from stray animals that may be dangerous. Animal shelters usually need help. They often rely on volunteers to play with and walk the animals. This human contact helps the animals stay friendly. This will help the animals get adopted. Animal shelters also need help keeping their facility clean. Volunteers can help clean food dishes and bedding. This helps the animals stay healthy.

How Volunteering Helps

Ways to volunteer	How does it help?
 <p>Pick up garbage in a park</p>	<p>Keeps parks clean and safe for people and animals</p>
 <p>Organize food on shelves at a food pantry</p>	<p>Helps provide food to people who don't have enough food to eat</p>
 <p>Play with an animal at an animal shelter</p>	<p>Helps the animals stay friendly for when they find a new home</p>

What is one task a volunteer at an animal shelter can do to help?

O



United States Air Force /
Airman Joshua Green

put books away

O



© iStock.com / Steve Debenport

clean up garbage

O



© iStock.com / Gang Zhou

play with animals

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 2

We are going to read part of the text again.



Wikimedia Commons

No matter how you look at it, volunteering helps everyone! John F. Kennedy was the thirty-fifth president of the United States. Kennedy inspired many people to volunteer more. He once said to a large crowd of Americans, “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country.” In his speech, Kennedy called on American citizens to improve their country by serving it. One way to serve is to volunteer in your community. Everyone should become a volunteer.

People can have different points of view.

An author’s point of view is how the author thinks about the subject.

What is the author's point of view about volunteering?

O



© iStock.com / aldomurillo

School can be a place where students make friends.

O



© iStock.com / monkeybusinessimages

Cleaning up parks is the only way to help.

O



© iStock.com / Wavebreakmedia

Everyone should volunteer to do something.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 3

We are going to read part of the text again.



© iStock.com / asiseeit

Volunteering not only helps the community, it also helps improve the life of the volunteer. Volunteers learn **invaluable** and meaningful job skills, such as being on time, being reliable, and cooperating with others. In fact, studies show that volunteers in need of work are 27% more likely to find a job. Being a volunteer will likely make your own life better. When you serve others, you will feel proud of yourself. Plus, while you're volunteering, you will meet like minded people who are also generous and caring. Are you interested in volunteering? A good place to start is by talking to someone who works at your school.

A central idea of this part is that volunteering is good for the volunteer.

Which sentence shows that volunteering is good for the volunteer?

O



© iStock.com / fstop123

People should vote in elections.

O



© iStock.com / Steve Debenport

Volunteers often work away from home.

O



© iStock.com / Steve Debenport

Volunteers learn how to cooperate with others.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 4

What is another sentence that shows that volunteering is good for the volunteer?

O



© iStock.com / Steve Debenport

Volunteers are more likely to find a job.

O



© iStock.com / Steve Debenport

Volunteers can ask lots of questions.

O



© iStock.com / Image Source

Volunteers drink a lot of coffee.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

We are going to read the chart again.

How Volunteering Helps

Ways to volunteer	How does it help?
 <p>Pick up garbage in a park</p>	<p>Keeps parks clean and safe for people and animals</p>
 <p>Organize food on shelves at a food pantry</p>	<p>Helps provide food to people who don't have enough food to eat</p>
 <p>Play with an animal at an animal shelter</p>	<p>Helps the animals stay friendly for when they find a new home</p>

Details support a conclusion.

Which detail supports the conclusion that volunteering helps people in the community?

O



© iStock.com / kali9

People cleaning the park help keep it safe.

O



© iStock.com / Highwaystarz-Photography

People washing the dishes help keep the kitchen tidy.

O



© iStock.com / kali9

The only way to get a pet is to adopt a dog.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 6

A conclusion is supported by details.

What is another detail from the chart that shows how volunteering helps people in the community?

O



Franklin D. Roosevelt
Presidential Library & Museum

Part of the president's job is to give speeches.

O



© iStock.com / Steve Debenport

People help provide food to those in need.

O



© iStock.com / Steve Debenport

Parks are kept beautiful when people plant flowers.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 7

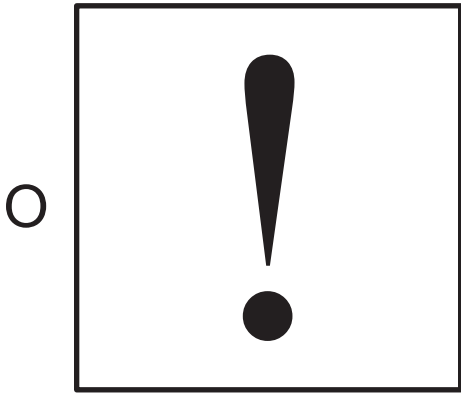
We are going to read part of the text again. Listen for clues that tell what the word **invaluable** means.



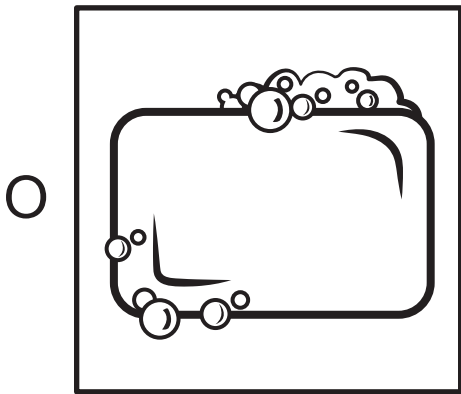
© iStock.com / asiseeit

Volunteering not only helps the community, it also helps improve the life of the volunteer. Volunteers learn **invaluable** and meaningful job skills, such as being on time, being reliable, and cooperating with others. In fact, studies show that volunteers in need of work are 27% more likely to find a job. Being a volunteer will likely make your own life better. When you serve others, you will feel proud of yourself. Plus, while you're volunteering, you will meet like minded people who are also generous and caring. Are you interested in volunteering? A good place to start is by talking to someone who works at your school.

What is the meaning of the word **invaluable** as it is used in this sentence?

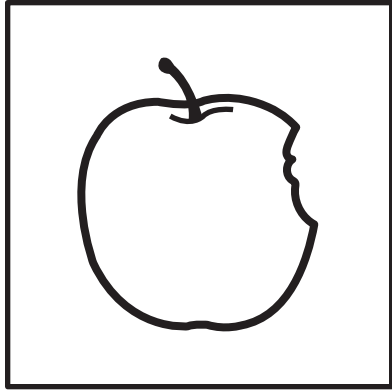


very important



very clean

O



very delicious

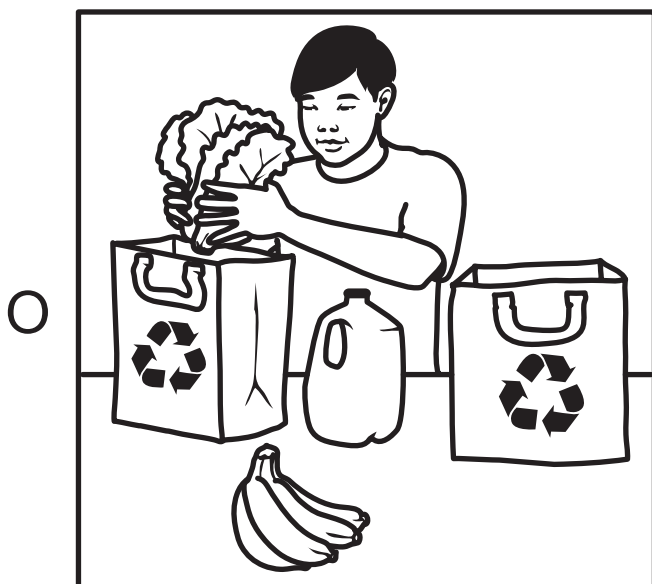
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 8

Writers can use details to tell about a topic. Here is a topic you could write about.

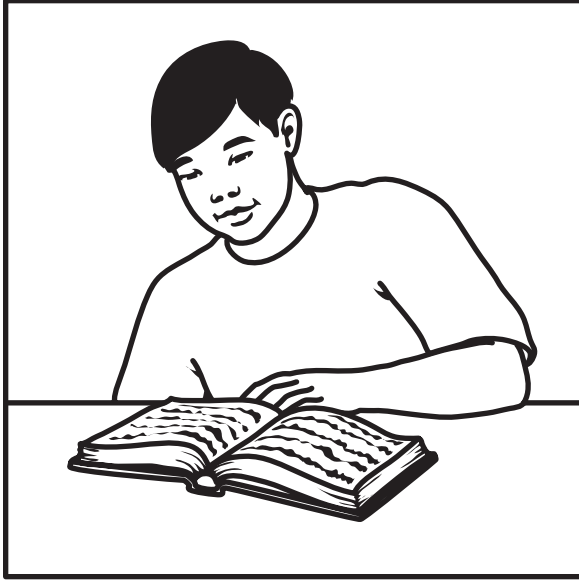
People should use reusable bags instead of plastic bags.

Which detail tells why people should use reusable bags instead of plastic bags?



Reusable bags are less wasteful than plastic bags.

O



Students read books to learn more about history.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

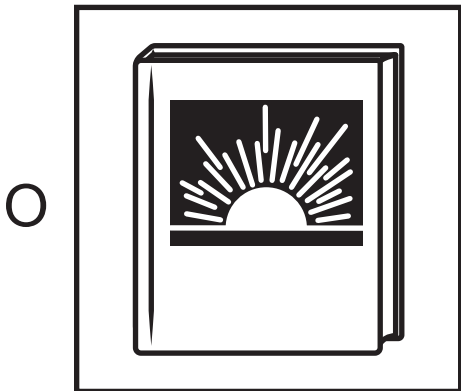
Item 9

Samantha is writing about outer space. She wants to compare the Sun and the Moon. To compare means to find ways things are alike.

Which sentence belongs in Samantha's essay?

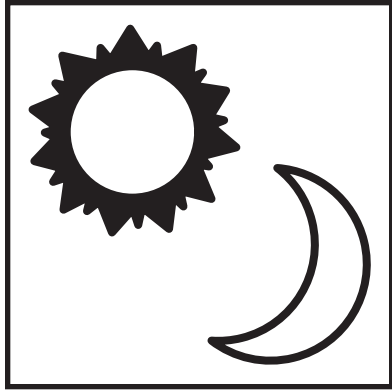


Birds live in a nest.



My teacher has a book about the Sun.

O



The Sun and the Moon are both in the sky.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 10

You are going to write an essay about why students should wear school uniforms. Wearing school uniforms means that everyone has the same matching clothes. Let's read the introduction. Listen for what the author is trying to make you believe about school uniforms.

Students should wear school uniforms. If all students wore school uniforms, it would save them time in the morning. There would be fewer arguments with parents because everyone would know exactly what clothes to wear.

Remember, a claim is what the author wants you to believe.

In the introduction, what claim is the author making about school uniforms?



Students should wear school uniforms.

O



Students should do their homework.

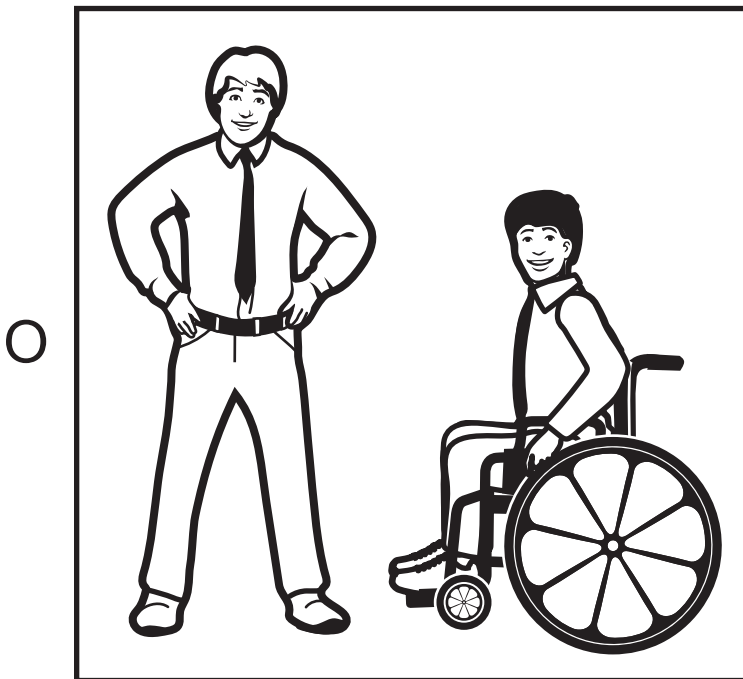
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 11

The claim the author is making is “Students should wear school uniforms.” Now you are going to write the rest of your essay.

A reason is used to convince someone to believe a claim.

Which reason will convince someone that students should wear uniforms?



Students should wear uniforms because they like the color of their shirts.

O



Students should wear uniforms because they will have more in common with other students.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 12

A reason is “Students should wear uniforms because they will have more in common with other students.”

Facts are used in an essay to support claims. Here are two sentences that are facts. Remember, facts are true.

Which fact best supports that students should wear school uniforms?



Students go to school during the daytime.

O



A study showed that school uniforms help build a strong school community.

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 13

The best fact is “A study showed that school uniforms help build a strong school community.”

Here are two sentences that could go in your essay. The second sentence has a blank space.

School uniforms save money. _____ , there is not as much pressure to buy expensive, trendy clothing.

Here are two different phrases that could complete the blank: “for example,” and “on the table.”

Listen as I read the sentences with each of these phrases.

School uniforms save money. For example, there is not as much pressure to buy expensive, trendy clothing.

OR

School uniforms save money. On the table, there is not as much pressure to buy expensive, trendy clothing.

Which phrase should go in the blank space?

☐ For example,

☐ On the table,

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 14

The phrase “For example” goes in the blank space. I will read the sentences to you.

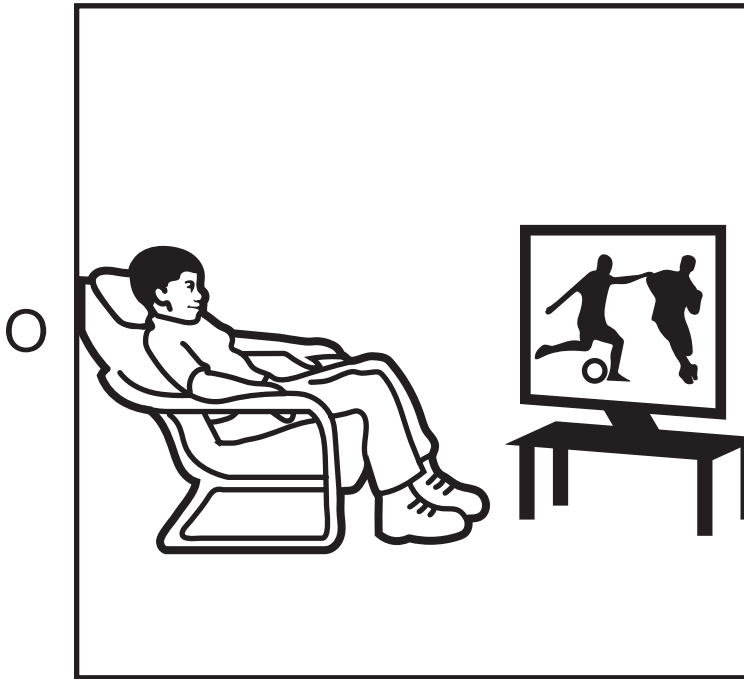
School uniforms save money. For example, there is not as much pressure to buy expensive, trendy clothing.

Your essay about why students should wear school uniforms is almost finished. I will read what you have so far.

Students should wear school uniforms. If all students wore school uniforms, it would save them time in the morning. There would be fewer arguments with parents because everyone would know exactly what clothes to wear. Students should wear uniforms because they will have more in common with other students. A study showed that school uniforms help build a strong school community. School uniforms save money. For example, there is not as much pressure to buy expensive, trendy clothing.

Now you will add a sentence to your essay. I will read two sentences to you.

Which sentence supports your claim about school uniforms?



It is important to wear school uniforms because people like to watch sports on television.



It is important to wear school uniforms because uniforms make students feel more connected to each other and their school.

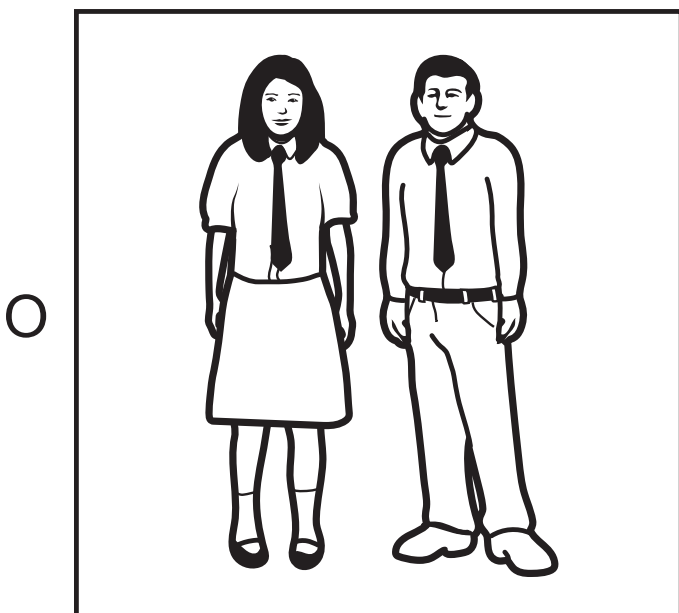
Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

Item 15

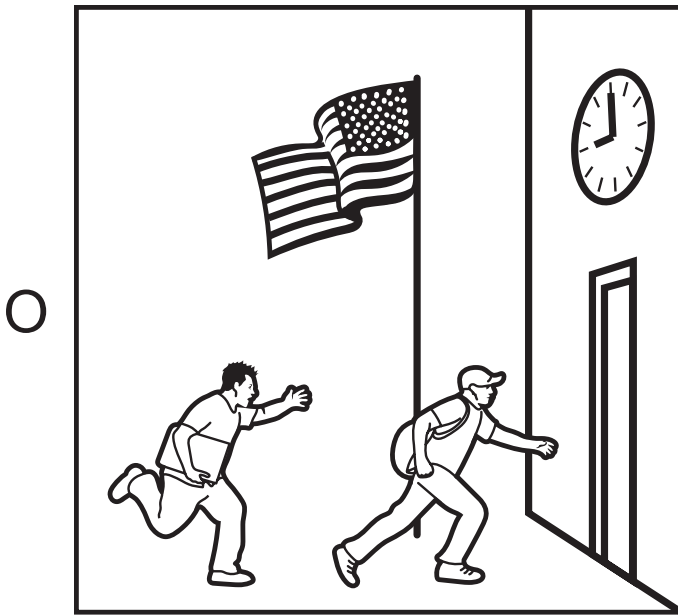
The sentence “It is important to wear school uniforms because uniforms make students feel more connected to each other and their school” tells why it is important to write about school uniforms.

Now you will choose the conclusion for your essay. Remember, a conclusion tells what the essay was about. I will read two sentences to you.

Which sentence is the best conclusion for your essay?



In conclusion, students should wear school uniforms!



In conclusion, students should get to school on time!

Would you like to read this question again, yes or no?

The best conclusion for your essay is “In conclusion, students should wear school uniforms!”

Now your essay is finished. I will read the whole essay to you.

Students should wear school uniforms. If all students wore school uniforms, it would save them time in the morning. There would be fewer arguments with parents because everyone would know exactly what clothes to wear. Students should wear uniforms because they will have more in common with other students. A study showed that school uniforms help build a strong school community. School uniforms save money. For example, there is not as much pressure to buy expensive, trendy clothing. It is important to wear school uniforms because uniforms make students feel more connected to each other and their school. In conclusion, students should wear school uniforms!

