

第3回兵庫県高校生英語ディベートコンテスト  
*The 3rd Hyogo Prefecture Senior High School English Debate Contest*  
- Model Debate Script -

Proposition: All secondary schools in Japan should abolish school uniforms.

「日本の全ての中学校・高等学校は制服を廃止すべきである。」

### Affirmative Constructive Speech

Thank you, chairperson. We are very happy to speak today on behalf of all the people who believe that “All secondary schools in Japan should abolish school uniforms.” We have three reasons why we don’t support school uniforms.

#### **Reason No.1 School uniforms are a cause of sexual crimes including groping.**

There are growing numbers of groping crimes which target high school students in uniforms. Evidence: The *Criminal Information News of Hiroshima Railway Police* (2004, May) says, **Quote** “The situations by occupation show that 48 % of 450 victims of groping crimes are high school students. A lot of gropers like their uniforms and appear to target mainly reserved-looking students.” **Unquote** School uniforms show the public that the wearers are high school students who are considered to be inexperienced in society. In this case, it is natural that they should be targeted. Without school uniforms, it would be hard for gropers to recognize high school students and the number of the victims would decrease.

#### **Reason No.2 School uniforms are an economic burden on students’ families.**

School uniforms are an economic burden on students’ families. Evidence: According to “The survey on the students’ school expenses by the *Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology* (2004),” **Quote** “School expenses in public senior high schools will be 342,000yen per year. (snip) For first year students, school uniforms rank as the second highest expense for the total year’s expenses (13% of the year’s cost). It comes second only to tuition.” **Unquote** Considering the fact that “tuition exemption rate” in public senior high schools all over Japan is 9.6 % on average last year (2008), we need to reduce the economic burden on parents by abolishing school uniforms. It is wise to spend less money on plain clothes than to buy school uniforms which can be worn only in school.

#### **Reason No.3 School uniforms become filthy because they cannot be laundered every day.**

School uniforms will be filthy because they cannot be washed every day. Evidence: According to “*MDB Net Survey System* on ‘Laundry we can’t keep up with’ (2005),” **Quote** *Suits* for men ranked first (96.4%), *jackets and blazers* for men ranked second (95.4%), *jackets and blazers* for women ranked third (92.4%), *suits* for women fourth (90.1%), and *school uniforms* ranked fifth (84.4%). **Unquote**. This shows that school uniforms are not washed very often in our daily lives. Most people will not buy two sets of school uniforms. We cannot allow students to wear filthy uniforms to school every day.

Thank you very much.

## Negative Cross-Examination

NEG: Thank you, chairperson. On your first point, do you think uniforms will be the target of sexual crimes in the case of boys?

AFF: No... not in case of boys, I guess, but ...

NEG: Thank you, that's enough. On your second point, you said school uniforms can be used only in school, but haven't you worn school uniforms outside school?

AFF: No.

NEG: Really? What do you wear when you attend funeral services?

AFF: As for me, I usually wear a suit and a black tie at a funeral.

NEG: Thank you. On your third point, how often do you clean your shoes, every day or once a week?

AFF: Probably once a month, I guess. So what?

NEG: Do you think you should abolish the shoes since shoes are not washed so often?

AFF: No.

NEG: Is there any evidence that the filthy uniforms have a great impact on our health or wellbeing?

AFF: ...(Silent)...

NEG: Thank you.

## Negative Constructive Speech

Thank you, chairperson, ladies and gentlemen. We don't believe that "All secondary schools in Japan should abolish school uniforms". We have three reasons.

### **Reason No.1 School uniforms play an important role in attracting students to schools.**

According to *The Yomiuri Online* (2009), Quote "A Deputy Principal in *Koshigaya Public High School* in Saitama prefecture, which previously had not had a school uniform, says, 'Since 2003 when our own school uniform was introduced, the entrance examination has become more competitive than before.'" Unquote This shows that school uniforms are one of the key factors for students to choose schools. In other words, school uniforms are essential because they will attract students to schools.

### **Reason No.2 School uniforms will lighten the economic burden placed on parents.**

Some people say school uniforms will be an economic burden on parents, but actually, it will lighten the economic burden on them. According to the *Daisen Ltd. The Sen-i News* (2007), Quote "The parents returning our questionnaires say that, 'With uniforms, it would be economical considering that we don't have to buy students' various clothes and our children can also wear hand-me-down uniforms from someone else.'" Unquote. This shows that parents want uniforms in schools.

### **Reason No.3 School uniforms will stop distractions in the classroom.**

Students are actually keen on the newest fads because they are surrounded by advertisements and stories about them in magazines, TV and the Internet. That's why they tend to be preoccupied with their appearance instead of academic grades. With school uniforms, students don't have to think about what to wear to school every morning and at school. Their attention would move from their appearance to their academic grades. School is the place where we have to study. So we don't support the proposition that "All secondary schools in Japan should abolish school uniforms." Thank you.

### **Affirmative Cross-Examination**

AFF: On your first point, did you choose your high school by checking the school uniforms only?

NEG: Yes, of course!

AFF: Didn't you have an interview with your homeroom teacher in junior high school?

NEG: Yes.

AFF: In the interview, didn't your homeroom teacher mention your academic grades?

NEG: Yes.

AFF: Thank you. On your second point, do you know how much it costs to buy uniforms?

NEG: I guess it's about 25,000yen.

AFF: Do you know how much it costs to buy a suit at men's suit shop, say *Haruyama*?

NEG: No.

AFF: Less than 20,000 yen. Don't you think school uniforms are too expensive even if we consider the after-sale service?

NEG: ...(silent)...

AFF: Thank you. On your third point, do you have any evidence to support your third point?

NEG: .... No.

AFF: Thank you.

### **Negative Rebuttal Speech**

Thank you, chairperson. On their first point the affirmative side answered "No" to our question "Do you think uniforms will be the target of sexual crimes in the case of boys?" So it means that their first point is relatively weak for the reason that the affirmative side is considering only girls and not boys in school. It is true that more and more high school girl students are being targeted by gropers, but it is not enough of a reason that all secondary school in Japan should abolish school uniforms. We guess (believe) it's not a matter of uniforms, but a matter of how they are being worn. A lot of girls want to wear uniforms in a casual way, which is very seductive to some gropers.

On their second point, the affirmative side said that they would wear a suit and black tie at a

funeral instead of a school uniform. This sounds like a contradiction. It's not cheap to purchase a suit and black tie. Also, how often do you wear the suit? Probably only once a year at most. Wouldn't you say it is a big economic burden for their parents to buy them a suit that is only worn a few times?

According to *asahi.com* (July 2, 2009), **Quote** "There is a discussion that the *Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology* is thinking of introducing a system to pay for all the expenses related to high school education including tuition." **Unquote** If this turns out to be the case, uniforms will not be an economic burden for parents.

**On their third point**, the affirmative side didn't present enough evidence to show that dirty uniforms will have a bad effect on our health our wellbeing. We believe that the 3<sup>rd</sup> reason is totally irrelevant. Thank you very much.

### **Affirmative Rebuttal Speech**

**On their first point**, the negative side said "Yes" to our question that "Didn't you have the interview with your homeroom teacher in junior high school?" This means that they chose their high school considering not only the school uniform, but also their academic grades, among other things.

We will present evidence. According to a questionnaire (June 2003) for junior high school 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students, which asked why they chose their high school, academic grades ranked first (69.3%), class options ranked second (52.3%), and commuting time to school ranked third (45.4%). In the results, school uniforms ranked twelfth (10.3%). This shows that students seldom consider school uniforms when choosing their high school.

**On their second point**, the negative side didn't answer our question of "Don't you think school uniforms are too expensive even if we consider the after-sale service?" after comparing the price of school uniforms and a suit sold at *Haruyama*. This shows that the negative side partially admitted that school uniforms are relatively expensive. The negative side said that we can wear hand-me-down school uniforms, but it is not always true that we can get hand-me-downs easily. Even if they are available, we believe that some students will hesitate to wear uniforms that have been used by someone else.

**On their third point**, the negative side didn't show any evidence. So their third point is out of the question. Thank you.

### **Negative Summary Speech**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, and ladies and gentlemen, let me look over today's debate.

**On our first point**, it is true, as the affirmative side said, that we choose our high school not only by school uniforms but also by other factors such as academic grades and commuting time. However our example of *Koshigaya* high school shows that adopting school uniforms has helped them compete with rival schools for student enrollment. This clearly shows that high schools need school uniforms.

**On their second point**, the affirmative side said school uniforms are used only in school.

However, they are also used when we attend funerals, for instance. We don't have to buy a suit or a tie for those occasions. Without uniforms, it would be an economic burden to their parents. This is a big contradiction to their argument.

Lastly, the affirmative side didn't show any evidence to support their third point. It is true that filthy uniforms may not be good for our health, but they did not show any evidence that the filthy uniforms had a great impact on our health. Their third point is by no means persuasive.

All in all, we cannot support the proposition that all secondary schools in Japan should abolish school uniforms. Thank you very much.

### **Affirmative Summary Speech**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson, and ladies and gentlemen, let me look over today's debate.

First, the negative side accepted the idea on our first point that school uniforms will be the focus of sexual crimes such as groping case against "girls". It is true that our first point does not apply to boys, but we strongly believe that we should abolish school uniforms considering the fact that there are a growing number of groping crimes which target high school girls in uniforms.

Second, on their second point the negative side didn't answer our question "*Don't you think school uniforms are too expensive even if we consider the after-sale service?*" after comparing the price of school uniforms and a suit sold at *Haruyama*. This shows that the negative side partially admitted that school uniforms are relatively expensive. On one hand, the negative side said school uniforms will lighten the economic burden placed on parents. On the other hand, they didn't deny that school uniforms are too expensive. It's a contradiction.

Last of all, on their third point, it goes without saying that the third point is far from persuasive.

Now, ladies and gentlemen, it is high time to abolish school uniforms in secondary schools.

Thank you very much.