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English 101 (name of class)

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### The Asian Carp Threat

The United States has seen plenty of invasive species. This includes all kinds of grasses, shrubs, bushes, vines, insects, animals, and more. Many of these were introduced for innocent reasons, some were introduced by accident, while some were meant to help solve problems rather than cause problems. The Asian carp is one of the newer invasive species that has become a problem that needs to be recognized as a real danger by a number of organizations in order to find a solution. This species of fish threatens the ecological system of the Great Lakes disrupting the fishing, recreational, and shipping industries.

The main concern is that these big fish will eat most of the food that other species require to live. Originally, these bottom feeders were imported to help clean southern catfish ponds of algae and other unwanted growth. As the story goes, many carp escaped from the ponds into the Mississippi River during times of flooding. The carp swam north to the Illinois river and are ready to enter Lake Michigan. The Great Lakes support a \$7 billion annual fishing industry and 800,000 jobs through multiple states and Canada. Asian carp can produce enough offspring that have a tendency to outlive and outgrow native species. These are large fish weighing up to 100 pounds and can be four-feet long. Their consumption of plankton and other bottom plants can

starve off many other fish such as whitefish and perch. This can create all kinds of ecological issues for the Great Lakes.

The Silver carp is especially dangerous to the Great Lakes recreation industry. This particular Asian carp has a tendency to jump as high as ten feet as it seems to fly through the air. Many boaters have described the experience of being hit by these flying fish to being comparable to being hit with a bowling bowl. The Great Lakes Commission estimates that there are about one million boats and other watercraft that operate on the Great Lakes. With millions of people accessing the Great Lakes each year, there is a high potential for many people to be injured by being struck by flying fish. The thought of injury when operating a boat or personal watercraft is a threat to the tourism industry.

One of the permanent solutions to stopping Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes is to close the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal which is the only connection between the Mississippi River system and the Great Lakes (Stokstad 932). However, this would be disruptive to the shipping and transportation systems. Illinois has argued that over \$16 billion dollars in goods is shipped through their waterway annually and closing the canal would be a serious blow to the economy and jobs.

The Asian carp is another invasive species that can be added to a very long list of invasive species that has become a nuisance to many, many people. Although multiple attempts have been made to prevent this invasion, the problem continues to exist as a serious threat to multiple industries surrounding the Great Lakes region. Many people are hoping that passage of the Asian Carp Prevention and Control Act can provide enough resources to bring about a

Student 3

permanent solution to the Asian carp issue which continues to threaten the ecological and financial welfare of all who occupy the Great Lakes area.

Works Cited

Stokstad, Erik. "Biologists Rush to Protect Great Lakes from Onslaught of Carp." *Science* 327.5968 (2010): 932. Print.

**PLEASE NOTE in the Asian carp five-paragraph essay above:**

1. We formatted this five-paragraph research paper like what you would do with a regular research paper using the MLA style. It is up to YOUR teacher HOW they want this formatted. Some teachers may want just the paragraphs without formal MLA formatting. **ASK YOUR TEACHER.**
2. The thesis statement is in the first paragraph: **The Asian carp is one of the newer invasive species that has become a problem that needs to be recognized as a real danger by a number of organizations in order to find a solution. This species of fish threatens the ecological system of the Great Lakes disrupting the fishing, recreational, and shipping industries.**
3. The second paragraph provides the strongest statement, or argument, that helps show how dangerous the Asian carp is to the Great Lakes. **The main concern is that these big fish will eat most of the food that other species require to live.**
4. The third paragraph provides a statement, or argument, that helps show how dangerous the Asian carp is to the Great Lakes, BUT it is not as strong of argument as what is presented in the second paragraph. **The Silver carp is especially dangerous to the Great Lakes recreation industry** is NOT as strong of argument as **The main concern is that these big fish will eat most of the food that other species require to live.**
5. The last argument shows how disruptive Asian carp can be, but it is not as strong of argument as the arguments in the second and third paragraphs. However, all three arguments support the thesis statement in the first paragraph.
6. The last paragraph is the "conclusion" of the paper. This conclusion artistically **summarizes** the paper without giving the detail provided in the body of the five-paragraph paper. Many of us have learned to restate the original thesis statement, that is

found in the first paragraph, **BUT NOT** word-by-word. Many teachers like you to artistically mention the original thesis, but in a different way.

PLEASE SCROLL DOWN THE SCREEN FOR THE **School Uniforms** EXAMPLE

## The Pros of School Uniforms

Historically, the concept of school uniforms is familiar to many European schools and private schools within the United States. However, much more attention to the importance of school uniforms arose when a significant movement began in the 1980's to introduce dress codes within public schools in the United States. As more and more public schools implemented dress codes, more and more parents and students questioned the real value of school uniforms as a tool to curb violence in schools and promote achievement. Both sides of this controversy can present valid arguments for their respective views. However, school uniforms are a real solution to many of the issues that schools face. School uniforms help produce a safe academic learning environment which helps students achieve. School uniforms reduce competition among students for designer clothes; reduces tension due to gang-related clothing; and creates a sense of team spirit and respect.

One of the major arguments for school uniforms is that wearing a uniform helps prevent students from feeling that they need to have the latest and greatest clothes or other objects to keep pace with their fellow classmates. The desire that children have to find acceptance from their peers is a natural part of life. As the child develops throughout his/her young life, the child becomes aware of what others think about them. The implementation of school uniforms helps with positive child development. With a dress code, competition based on designer clothes, shoes, and other such materials are eliminated. Students who cannot afford expensive designer clothing do not have to feel economically inferior to anyone. Social-economic barriers are removed from the learning environment. Clothing no longer is a factor on how students judge each other. Students can belong to one big peer group that respects each other which helps with creating a positive identity and self-esteem.

Gang action presents all kinds of problems for schools. Gangs are known to associate with a variety of illegal or unwanted activities including drugs, theft, intimidation, and violence. The influence of a gang can be present all through a school whether it is in the classrooms, gym, cafeteria, or on the outside grounds. Gang presence has to be curbed in order to provide a safe learning environment. School uniforms can help eliminate the baggy gang-inspired look that makes it easy for students to smuggle in weapons, drugs and other such items. With a dress code, gang members who attend school may not be able to recognize rival gang members. There is no place for gang colors and messages on school uniforms.

From middle school through high school, many students continue to face challenges of self identity, self-image, and self-esteem. School uniforms help students have a sense of belonging, school spirit, team work, and school pride. A dress code establishes order, discipline, and fewer distractions.

Definitely, the implementation of school uniforms within a school system has advantages and disadvantages. Each school system and community is different. However the constant is that most school administrators, teachers, students, parents, and communities want to see students achieve. In order to achieve, one of the main factors that has to be considered is a safe, secure, learning environment with the least possible distractions. There is plenty of anecdotal and a few research studies that show that school uniforms prevent many issues related to gangs, eliminates jealousy over clothing and establishes respect which all produces a positive force to help create the necessary conditions to produce an environment that promotes student achievement.

PLEASE SCROLL TO THE NEXT PAGE

**PLEASE NOTE** that we did not format the school uniform five-paragraph essay in MLA style like what we did the Asian carp essay at the top of this document. **It is up to the teacher** how they want the five-paragraph paper formatted. Some teachers use the five-paragraph paper as a tool to **introduce** students to writing a formal research paper. In doing so, some teachers may prefer NOT to introduce the concepts of MLA or APA formatting in the five-paragraph research paper. **ASK YOUR TEACHER.**

1. The first paragraph, briefly, introduces the reader to school uniforms. The thesis statement is: **school uniforms are a real solution to many of the issues that schools face. School uniforms help produce a safe academic learning environment which helps students achieve.**

Many teachers like the following statement that we added: **School uniforms reduce competition among students for designer clothes; reduces tension due to gang-related clothing; and creates a sense of team spirit and respect.** This statement tells the reader the reasons that you are going to use in the following paragraphs to support the thesis statement.

2. The second paragraph provides the strongest argument for implementing a school uniform policy. When looking at much of the literature about school uniforms, the following reason seems to stand out among the other reasons: **One of the major arguments for school uniforms is that wearing a uniform helps prevent students from feeling that they need to have the latest and greatest clothes or other objects to keep pace with their fellow classmates.**
3. The third paragraph provides a strong reason for implementing school uniforms BUT it is NOT as strong as reason as the reason in the second paragraph. There is information about school uniforms helping to relieve some of the tension associated with gangs, BUT when looking at the literature, it does not seem to be the main reason why so many schools implement a school uniform policy.
4. The fourth paragraph addresses the association between school uniforms and concepts such as self-identity, self-image, and self-esteem. It is up to you to rate which paragraph is deserving of which reason (argument). Depending on the teacher, the arrangement of the arguments may not matter. I suppose if the teacher asks you why you used a particular argument in the second paragraph, just be ready to support why you placed a specific argument in the second paragraph.

5. The fifth paragraph is the conclusion. Basically, it is a brief summary of the rest of the essay. Some teachers like you to restate the thesis statement in a different way than the original thesis statement. Do NOT restate the original thesis statement found in the first paragraph, word-by-word in the conclusion. If you state the thesis statement in the conclusion, you need to change it up a little.