

Lena Mau

Dr. Greaves

COM108

11/07/2021

Outline: Dress Code (Statement of Reasons)

<https://youtu.be/Fx2quMUaZMI>

**General Goal:** To persuade my audience

**Specific Goal:** I want to convince my audience that dress codes are harmful and shouldn't be used anymore.

**Introduction:**

1. Everyone at some point in their lives has had to adhere to a dress code policy. Whether that be at a fancy restaurant, the workplace, or in grade school, everyone has had to follow the clothing policies put in place by someone above them.
2. But when does enforcing a dress code go too far? For a middle school in Maryland, the answer to a female student with holes in her jeans was for her teacher to ductape the skin under the jeans holes (a). For a school in Florida, the best way they thought to handle a 17-year-old female not wearing a bra was to send her to the office and tell her that she was distracting the boys in her class (b).
3. Hi class, today I will show you why dress codes can be harmful and damaging and why we should look to dismantle them.

**Body:**

1. Teachers and administration spend too much time focusing on dress code violations when their time should be better spent educating their students.
  - a. In an article by Western Governors University, “How to Enforce the Student Dress Code in a Fair Way”, veteran educator Suzanne Capek Tingley writes that she “preferred to talk to the student at the end of class to avoid disrupting class time or drawing unnecessary attention to the student”. A low-key experience is not what most students face though when being the target of teachers enforcing the dress code. In an article by NBC, an 11-year-old female student was called up in front of the class to have the width of her tanktop strap measured (c).
  - b. I myself have been a victim to teachers taking time out of the designated learning time to reprimand me about the clothes that I was wearing. Not only does this impact the students being punished for wearing the wrong clothes, but it also takes time away from the other students in the class who are also missing out on the designated learning time.

While both boys and girls are impacted because of their school’s dress code, female students are the most impacted because dress codes tend to target women more than they do men.

2. Females are more targeted and more harmed via dress codes than their male counterparts, not only in school but in the workplace as well. In schools, dress codes take the focus off of learning and turn the focus to girls’ bodies instead. Similarly, in the workplace, dress codes take the focus off of getting the job done and turn it into focusing on women’s bodies.

- a. In his article for *the Journal of African American Studies*, called *Oppressive Curriculum: Sexist, Racist, Classist, and Homophobic Practice of Dress Codes in Schooling*, Rouhollah Aghasaleh writes that “Dress codes convey sexism with a male center gaze”. He continues this idea, saying if students don’t act “lady-like”, it is considered “disruptive to academic success”.
- b. Let’s talk about the male gaze and how we are impacted by it. The male gaze is defined by Oxford Languages as “The perspective of a notionally typical heterosexual man considered as embodied in the audience or intended audience for films and other visual media, characterized by a tendency to objectify or sexualize women”. Basically, this definition is saying that movies and other media are designed to cater to what they think their male audience will like to see. In doing this, the women in media are usually oversexualized and objectified. If this is the media that we are consuming, it is bound to spill over into our real lives, i.e. dress codes.
- c. Although males can be affected by dress codes as well, because dress codes are centered around the male gaze, they are not as impacted as females are. What the male gaze has done for dress codes and women is take regular articles of clothing, and sexualize them. This was seen in my previous example about the 11-year-old who was punished for the width of her tank top straps. Not only is it ridiculous to sexualize a tank-top, but it is ridiculous to objectify an 11-year-old.

3. Beyond targeting females, dress codes snuff out creativity. I went to a high school with a really loose dress code, and not only were the outfits were appropriate most of the time, but they were also full of expression and creativity.
  - a. Without the choice to express themselves through their clothing, people and children can begin to feel as though they are not being seen. This can lead to mental health problems, including depression.
  - b. Usually, children don't sexualize each other, that is done by things like dress codes. Because simple articles of clothing weren't sexualized at the high school that I went to, I felt safe wearing a skirt or a crop top. Once those articles of clothing are deemed sexual by the administration, that is when children will begin to think that those articles are sexual.

**Conclusion:**

Based on what I have said today, you should be able to see why dress codes are harmful and should be dismantled.

Dress codes affect both males and females but can be very damaging to females especially.

So if you currently attend a school or a job where there is a dress code, maybe it is time to talk with your peers, review the establishment's dress code, determine how harmful it truly is, and sit down to have a discussion with the administration. Who knows, you might just make a positive impact on yourself and your peers.

## References:

Davis, Ben. "Why Are Dress Codes a Bad Idea?" *MVOrganizing*, 8 May 2021, <https://www.mvorganizing.org/why-are-dress-codes-a-bad-idea/#:~:text=From%20targeting%20and%20harming%20girls,court%2C%20the%20schools%20generally%20lose.>

ESSAY

RE

# Why are dress codes a bad idea?

Ben Davis — May 8, 2021

1. Why are dress codes a bad idea?
2. Why should dress code not be enforced?
3. Are dress codes a good idea?
4. Why should students be allowed to wear what they want?
5. Should schools have dress code pros cons?
6. Why is the dress code important?
7. What are the advantages and disadvantages of dress code?
8. Why uniforms are better than regular clothes?
9. How much money do parents spend on school clothes a year?
10. How much money should you spend on back-to-school clothes?
11. How much does it cost to clothe a child for a year?
12. How much does the average parent spend on their child?
13. Who is more expensive Boy or girl?
14. How much do you spend per child for Christmas?

## Why are dress codes a bad idea?

From targeting and harming girls, to violating freedoms of religious expression, school dress codes can often do more harm than good. They frequently aren't followed, administration spends a lot of time and effort enforcing them, and when law suits are brought to court, the schools generally lose.

Approved by The MFL

Approved by The MFL

## Why should dress code not be enforced?

Dress code should not be enforced because realistically it increases behavioral problems and teaches girls that it is our duty to make sure we cover up to ensure a "distraction free" learning environment for the boys.

## Are dress codes a good idea?

Here are some of the most important advantages: 1) A dress code promotes a more serious school atmosphere which emphasizes academics and promotes good behavior. 2) Dress codes have proven to increase student achievement by encouraging students to concentrate more on their studies and less on their wardrobe.

## Why should students be allowed to wear what they want?

All schools should let students wear regular clothes to school because students feel more comfortable with regular clothes. Uniforms are expensive, so wearing regular clothes to school will take an extra weight off of parents. Uniforms can also be boring since everyone in the whole school is wearing the same thing.



## Should schools have dress code pros cons?

According to more than 135,000 Niche users, only 2 percent reported having no school dress codes at all....Dress Codes Growing in Style at U.S. Schools.

Pros	Cons
Pros Can instill discipline in students	Cons Rules sometimes not enforced uniformly
Pros Can promote better behavior in students	Cons Can be costly, depending on how strict the code is

## Why is the dress code important?

Dress sets a visual image of the person at the workplace. Attire shows one's character and represents one's professionalism towards work and life. Wearing proper dress is important as one never knows who he/she has to meet. The way the client sees you, also speaks a lot about the company you are working for.

## What are the advantages and disadvantages of dress code?

The disadvantage of dress code is that it restrains the freedom of expressing the personality of employees through their clothes. Wearing casual clothes enables combining various colours and experiment with various combinations. The employees should have a freedom of deciding what to wear.

## Why uniforms are better than regular clothes?

Students dressed in uniform are better perceived by teachers and peers. A 1994 peer-reviewed study found that students in uniform were perceived by teachers and fellow students as being more academically proficient than students in regular clothes.

## How much money do parents spend on school clothes a year?



– The National Retail Federation reports that last year parents spent an average of \$684.79 on back to school supplies—add \$11.91 to that for this year. The average American family is expected to spend almost \$700 on back to school shopping this year.

## How much money should you spend on back-to-school clothes?

It anticipates families with children in elementary school through high school will spend \$696.70 on average, including \$239.82 per household on clothing and accessories (not counting shoes, which are expected to run another \$135.96 per family), and \$203.44 on such electronics as computers, calculators and phones.

## How much does it cost to clothe a child for a year?

Total Kid Costs

#### Total Kid Costs

	Age 0-17 Total per kid (USDA)	Per Year Average per kid (USDA)
Clothing	\$13,260	\$737
Healthcare	\$21,720	\$1,207
Childcare/Education	\$38,040	\$2,113
Miscellaneous	\$17,460	\$970

### How much does the average parent spend on their child?

The cost of raising a child until age 17 is \$233,610 on average. Low-income married couples spend \$174,690 on average to raise a child. Low-income single parents spend \$172,200 to raise a child from birth until age 17. The average amount spent on raising a child in the Urban West is \$245,460.

### Who is more expensive Boy or girl?

After all the data was compiled, MoneyTips found that parents on average spend \$80 more each month on a girl than a boy. This totals to \$960 per year, and \$17,280 over the 18 years a child is typically at home.

### How much do you spend per child for Christmas?

And that all adds up. Moms and dads spent \$422 per kid on average last year, with a third dropping \$500 on each child aged 8 to 14, according to T. Rowe Price's Parents, Kids & Money Survey. That's partly because 66% of surveyed parents said their kids expected to get everything they wanted.



- a. Rasool, Amira. "This School Reportedly Forced a Student to Cover Her Bare Skin in Duct Tape." *Teen Vogue*, Teen Vogue, 15 June 2018, <https://www.teenvogue.com/story/school-backlash-student-ripped-jeans-duct-tap>

e

## Jeans With Duct Tape

She allegedly violated the dress code with ripped jeans.

BY AMIRA RASOOL  
JUNE 15, 2018

A Maryland middle school is facing criticism this week after allegedly forcing a female student to cover her exposed skin with duct tape. The duct tape was reportedly used to address the seventh grader's ripped jeans, which violated the school's **dress code** policy.

According to *Yahoo Style*, several weeks ago a teacher placed duct tape on the female student's bare legs, to cover the skin showing beneath her ripped jeans. The student's mother, Nicole Williams, is now speaking out on her daughter's behalf and challenging the way the school handled the situation. Williams was reportedly only alerted of the duct-tape incident after her daughter texted her about it the day it happened. "The idea that they came up with — to believe it was a good idea to put, actually, duct tape on a child when they can clearly see bare skin? I believe they should have called me first, and given her a chance to be able to change her clothes," said Williams in an interview with *Fox 5 DC*.

The middle school has since released a statement about the matter and further clarified their dress code policy. "The expectation at Benjamin Stoddert Middle School is that students do not come to school in pants with holes above the knee," explained interim principal Marvin Jones in the statement. "If a student does not meet that expectation, we first ask students if they have a way to cover the holes, and if they do, they go back to class. If they do not, we call the parent and provide the student duct tape to self-apply to the holes above the knee." Although there is not a section of the dress code policy that explicitly states that students cannot wear pants with holes in them, the school stands behind its enforcement of that rule.

Principal Jones, however, did admit that the school did not follow proper protocol when it came to Williams' daughter. The school's policy is reportedly to contact students' parents to inform them of the dress code violation before anything is done to address the problem. Williams was not contacted by the school. For this oversight, Jones issued an apology. "Our practice is to communicate with the parent before a student covers the holes with tape; however, that protocol was not followed today, and I apologize for that," Jones's statement reads. Furthermore, he acknowledged the student's poor physical reaction to the tape, which included itching and burning. "The amount of tape applied by the student was excessive, and unfortunately, she had a reaction to it."



This latest dress code enforcement incident is one of many pressuring schools to reevaluate their dress code policies, especially policies that could be **deemed sexist or tougher on female students**. Critics of dress code policies have been adamant about ensuring that these strict policies do not interfere with students' ability to learn, and that every student feels like they are in a safe environment.

- b. Murray, Rheana. "Teen Is 'Humiliated' after Teacher Calls Her out for Not Wearing a Bra to School." *TODAY.com*, Today Show, 12 Apr. 2018, <https://www.today.com/style/lizzy-martinez-says-she-was-punished-not-wearing-bra-school-t126924>.

April 12, 2018, 2:29 PM EDT / Source: TODAY

By Rheana Murray

The mother of a Florida teenager said her daughter is "humiliated" after being called out of class for not wearing a bra underneath her T-shirt.

Lizzy Martinez, 17, a junior at Braden River High School in Bradenton, Florida, wrote on Twitter that a teacher complained that she was "a distraction to boys in my class," and that the school's dean later suggested she cover her nipples with Band-Aids from the nurse's office.

"I was beyond flabbergasted," her mother Kari Knop told TODAY Style. "I really had to have someone talk me off the ledge because I was so mad."

 **liz**  
@lizzymartineez

I decided not to wear a bra today and got pulled out of class bc one of my teachers complained that it was a "distraction to boys in my class." My school basically told me that boys' education is far more important than mine and I should be ashamed of my body. @Manateeschools :)

1:27 PM · Apr 2, 2018

42.4K 2.4K Copy link to Tweet

[Tweet your reply](#)

 **liz**  
@lizzymartineez

Stop sexualizing my body @piratenationhs

1:28 PM · Apr 2, 2018

1.2K 88 Copy link to Tweet

Martinez's tweets about what happened have since gone viral, sparking a conversation about the fine line between a dress code and sexualizing girls because of their clothes.

It happened last Monday, when Martinez said she was pulled out of class for not wearing a bra. She explained to the school's dean that she wasn't wearing one because she had a sunburn, but agreed to put on a second shirt, beneath her long-sleeve T-shirt.

“  
*I don't care if it's a female dean – it's not an appropriate request.*

KARI KNOP

After Martinez changed, she returned to the dean's office, where she said she was told to stand up and move around.

"I don't care if it's a female dean – it's not an appropriate request," Knop said.

That's when the dean asked Martinez to go to the nurse's office for Band-Aids, which she could use to cover up her nipples, Knop said.



Martinez was visibly upset but did so, and returned to class. But soon after she asked her mom to come pick her up, Knop said.

Knop was horrified when she heard her daughter's story.

## Recommended



### STYLE

How to wear the cloud coat trend, according to a stylist



### GIFT GUIDES

32 gifts for the husband who says he doesn't need anything

"When she told me they asked her to put Band-Aids on ... I slammed on the breaks – I mean, I was in the school parking lot driving five miles an hour, but I slammed on the breaks and said, 'Oh my gosh, you have got to be kidding me,'" Knop said.

The school's dress code states that students are "expected to dress appropriately for school and for the business of learning" and that if "personal attire or grooming distracts the attention of other students or teachers ... you will be required to make the necessary alterations to such attire or grooming before entering the classroom," but does not address bras specifically.



— The high school senior said she felt humiliated when teachers called her out for not wearing a bra. Courtesy of Kari Knop

The school district said in a statement sent to [TODAY Style](#) that no disciplinary action was taken against Martinez, but that the issue could have been handled better.

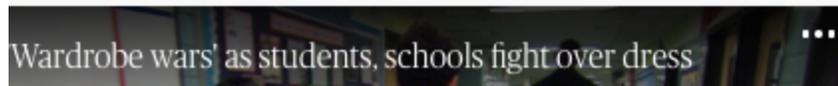
"It is undisputed that this matter should have been handled differently at the school level and corrective measures have been taken to prevent a reoccurrence in the way these matters will be addressed in the future," said Mitchell Teitelbaum, general counsel for Manatee County schools. "There was a violation of the school dress code and it was an appropriate matter to address by the school. It is clear the intent of school officials was to assist the student in addressing the situation."

---

*isn't something that's  
ly happened to Lizzie. It  
ppens to girls on a daily  
isis at schools and it's  
ne for change.*

I KNOP

Knop had a phone call with school officials last week but is still angry at how her daughter was treated. She said she has reached out to the school district but hasn't heard back. Meanwhile, her daughter is still embarrassed and has missed a few days of school, but plans to go back to class this week.





They both believe their message is bigger than Braden River High School – they want schools across the country to stop sexualizing girls.

"This isn't something that's only happened to Lizzie," Knop said. "It happens to girls on a daily basis at schools and it's time for change."

On Twitter, students from Braden River High School, including Martinez, are organizing what they're calling a "bracott" on April 16, suggesting that students protest by forgoing bras or wearing bandages over their nipples, on top of their shirts. 📡

*Get the TODAY Parents Newsletter!*

Join the family for weekly news and tips from TODAY Parents.

- c. Shankar, Dakshayani. "Portland Sixth Grader Takes a Stand on Dress Code to Enact Change." *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 21 Apr. 2017, <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/portland-sixth-grader-takes-stand-dress-code-enact-change-n749566>.

April 21, 2017, 6:34 PM EDT / Updated April 21, 2017, 6:34 PM EDT

By Dakshayani Shankar

In mid-April, 11-year-old Molly Neuner's middle school teacher in Maine asked to measure the width of the straps on her tank top. Then, in front of the entire class, the teacher deemed the top to be in violation of the school's dress code, [Molly recalled](#).

Two days later, on April 12, Molly wore a spaghetti-strap top with another tank top underneath to King Middle School in Portland, Maine. On her arm, she wrote #IAMNotADistracted. Her intent was to protest what [she felt](#) to be the school's problematic and sexist dress code system.

"Her teacher called her friend and her up in front of the whole class and asked her to measure her tank top and her friend to measure her shorts," Christina Neuner, Molly's mother, told NBC News. "Molly's tank top didn't fit the 2 finger wide rule and her friend's shorts was above the shorts code because she's very tall and has long legs. They were warned about facing detention if it was repeated."

Neuner said Molly had been wearing a purple racer-back sports top and that the teacher sought her out during lunch on the same day and criticized her for not covering it up with a sweatshirt. She said Molly had a jacket and offered to wear the jacket over the top but the teacher rejected her offer and warned her about detention again.



Neuner told NBC News that she was upset by the teacher's actions and reached out to the principal and vice principal. She said she was told that, while other parents had experienced similar issues, [the dress code](#) was recently changed to teach children to be respectful of each other's bodies.



— Sixth-grader Molly Neuner says she was reprimanded by a teacher wearing this tank top.  
Christina Neuner

"Prior to this incident, the school had a community meeting on April 7, 2017, to discuss the dress code and Molly told me that they focused largely on the girl's dress code," Neuner said. "They wanted to make sure girls didn't wear clothes that would be distracting for the boys. That

was their concern."

[The King Middle School dress code](#) prohibits girls from wearing bandannas, hats, sport sweatbands, pajama pants, short or tight-fitting skirts or shorts (no shorter than finger-tip length), thin-strapped tops such as halter tops or tube tops. It also forbids boys from wearing tank tops.

"I was like, 'Are you kidding me? Is this 2017?' The whole rape culture ... this telling 11-year-olds to keep themselves covered or their bodies would be sexualized ... it's crazy," said Neuner. "It should be up to the boys to control themselves, not the girls by getting punished for tank tops."



— Sixth grader Molly Neuner wrote the hashtag #iamnotadistracti0n on her arm as part of her protest against the dress code policy at King Middle School.  
Gregory Rec / Press Herald via Getty Images

Mother and daughter researched dress codes across the nation extensively to see if similar issues had come up previously and came across the hashtag #IAmNotADistracti0n on Instagram. Molly asked her mother to [write it on her arm in permanent marker](#).

Molly also encouraged her friends to dress the same way she did – in spaghetti-strap tops – and went to school with

tops – and went to school with a few permanent markers. She copied the hashtag on nearly 20 other girls in hopes of making statement.

## Recommended



CORONAVIRUS

Australia is open to the world – but not to every Australian



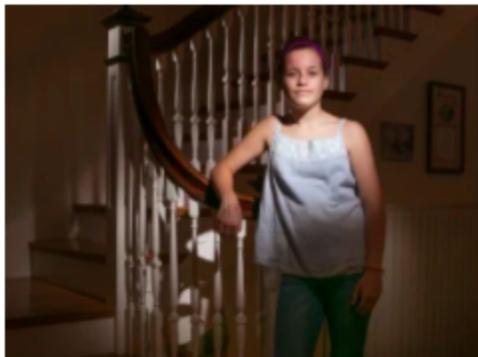
CULTURE MATTERS

Marvel's 'Eternals' soars to \$71 million at the North American box office

The following day, the school said it would review the dress code at the end of the school year and consider students' perspectives.

“We plan to take this feedback and use it as an opportunity to have some students’ and parents’ input,” said Caitlin LeClair, the school principal.

However, students will be expected to uphold the current dress codes until June 2017. The school has asked Molly to be a part of the review panel for the dress code.



— Molly Neuner poses for a photo in her Portland home after school on Wednesday, April 12, 2017.

Portland District

Superintendent Xavier Botana told Molly’s parents that he intends to look into the district-wide policy prohibiting certain types of clothes that cause “material and substantial disruption.”

“I don’t believe we should be dictating fashion or measuring the length of shorts if it’s not a material and substantial

Tingley, Suzanne Capek. “How to Enforce the Student Dress Code in a Fair Way.”

*Hey Teach!*, Western Governors University, 13 Sept. 2019,

<https://www.wgu.edu/heyteach/article/how-to-enforce-the-student-dress-code-in-a-fair-way1709.html>.

As a classroom teacher, enforcing your school's student dress code probably isn't at the top of your list. But supporting school rules is part of your overall responsibilities. So how can you determine which student dress code issues require attention, and how can you deal with them without disrupting class or diminishing your rapport with students?

**Further Reading:** [How to Build Trust with Students](#)

## Make Sure Kids Know What's Expected

Every middle and high school I've worked at had a dress code. Schools typically ban T-shirts that display racist, sexist, obscene, or gang-related messages. Generally, clothing shouldn't be overly revealing, hats can't be worn in the classroom, and jewelry shouldn't be able to double as a weapon (heavy chains, for example).

[Depending on the school](#), an administrator or class advisor will gather the students at the beginning of the year to go over the rules and expectations. This general review of the student dress code is helpful because kids can see it applies to everyone and that they aren't being singled out. If no general meeting occurs to review the dress code, it's a good idea for you to review it with your students on the first day of class so they're aware of the rules.



**THE MATH IS SIMPLE.**  
Less than \$6,500 a year for your teaching degree!  
[LEARN MORE](#) **WGU** 

## Avoid Embarrassing Dress Code Violators

When you do see a dress code violation that can't be ignored, speak to the student privately. I always preferred to talk to the student at the end of class to avoid disrupting class time or drawing unnecessary attention to the student. I admit that sometimes I just gave a student a warning if it was a minor issue. Other times, I'd say something like, "I think that top is out of dress code. I'm going to give you a pass to the dean to see what she thinks." It's important to be respectful to kids and not make it a bigger issue than it needs to be.

My high school had an administrator who made the final decision and called parents if necessary. This arrangement not only took the teacher off the hook but also kept kids from being subjected to multiple teachers' ideas of what qualified as appropriate dress. If your school doesn't have this setup, teachers may

## Avoid Embarrassing Dress Code Violators

When you do see a dress code violation that can't be ignored, speak to the student privately. I always preferred to talk to the student at the end of class to avoid disrupting class time or drawing unnecessary attention to the student. I admit that sometimes I just gave a student a warning if it was a minor issue. Other times, I'd say something like, "I think that top is out of dress code. I'm going to give you a pass to the dean to see what she thinks." It's important to be respectful to kids and not make it a bigger issue than it needs to be.

My high school had an administrator who made the final decision and called parents if necessary. This arrangement not only took the teacher off the hook but also kept kids from being subjected to multiple teachers' ideas of [what qualified as appropriate dress](#). If your school doesn't have this setup, teachers may be more inclined to confront only those issues that can't be ignored. Few of us have the time or inclination to call parents about what their child wore to school that day. We end up reserving those calls home for bigger issues but still work quietly and respectfully with kids to change behaviors.

## Understand Your Students' Concerns

Studies regarding the [effectiveness of dress codes](#) are inconclusive. And a growing concern with student dress codes is that they're [not always applied equally to boys and girls](#), with dress codes often being stricter for girls on the basis that what they wear can be "distracting" to boys. In addition, some people have raised issues of free speech and religious freedom in terms of what T-shirt messages students have a right to wear. So the issue of enforcing a dress code is not that simple.

One of the biggest objections kids have to the dress code is that it's applied unfairly. Unless it's a flagrant violation—a totally offensive T-shirt message that can't be missed, for example—minor violations often slip through the day undetected. Teachers are focused on instruction, after all, so small violations aren't always noticed every time. This leads to students being quick to point out when other kids have worn the very thing they're getting reprimanded for and not gotten in trouble. Consequently, if you're teaching the last period of the day, it won't improve your relationship with students to call out a dress code violation that's gone unnoticed for seven periods!

### Further Reading: [Stop Bullying by Creating a Strong Classroom Community](#)

It's important to use good judgment, restraint, and respect when dealing with dress code issues. If you ignore obvious violations, you'll look like you don't care about the code, and it is your responsibility as a member of the faculty to support school rules. But you don't have to look for problems either. So start your class with a quick scan of your students, make a mental note if you need to speak to anyone after class, and move on to focus on teaching and learning.

Aghasaleh, Rouhollah. "Oppressive Curriculum: Sexist, Racist, Classist, and Homophobic Practice of Dress Codes in Schooling." *Journal of African American Studies*, vol. 22, no. 1, 2018, pp. 94–108.,

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12111-018-9397-5>.

ARTICLES | Published: 07 March 2018

## Oppressive Curriculum: Sexist, Racist, Classist, and Homophobic Practice of Dress Codes in Schooling

Rouhollah Aghasaleh 

*Journal of African American Studies* 22, 94–108 (2018) | [Cite this article](#)

5476 Accesses | 6 Citations | 36 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

### Abstract

In this paper drawing on a study about school dress code policies and related issues—such as multiculturalism, racism, sexism, and homophobia, in the professional discourse—I show how similar the two patriarchal and White supremacist structures of education (school) and law enforcement (police) work. I argue that sexism, racism, homophobia, and classism in formal and hidden curriculum could be as mortal and brutal as it happened in cases of Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Trayvon Martin, and others. Dress codes convey sexism with a male center gaze and racism with White middle-class norms that serve as a hidden curriculum with inherent biases. That is, not acting White, not being lady-like, wearing butch-tomboy or ragged clothing, is disruptive to academic success. Discussing a dress code in a high school in a working-class Black community, I argue that like police officers, educators tend to make dangerous judgments about bodies. Finally, to stop the harmful reproduction of such judgments, I suggest what Judith Butler calls “subversive repetition” and “subversive citation” (Butler 1990, p. 147) which allows resisting the everyday experiences that produce oneself to address the question that how can we, as teachers, school administrations, and teacher educators, resist those practices that produce our bodies as vulnerable and potential victims and others’ bodies as dangerous and potential violators. To problematize, to conceptualize, and to enhance the above-mentioned argument, I will draw on several feminist frameworks such as performativity (Butler 1990), intersectionality (Crenshaw 1989), and objectification (Fredrickson and Roberts 1997).

Google Search, Google,

<https://www.google.com/search?q=the%2Bmale%2Bgaze%2Bdefinition&oq=the%2Bmale%2Bgaze%2B&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j0i512i9.3378j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>.

## Dictionary

Search for a word



### male gaze

*noun*

the perspective of a notionally typical heterosexual man considered as embodied in the audience or intended audience for films and other visual media, characterized by a tendency to objectify or sexualize women.

"it's because of **the male gaze** that female characters are regularly eroticized"

Definitions from Oxford Languages

[Feedback](#)