## Review the revised essay below. Revisions are highlighted in red. For each revision, note why this revision has had a positive impact on the organization of this essay.

## Student Sample—Revised Draft

The debate about dress codes and uniforms is revisited each year it seems because the issue is important to school leaders, parents, and most of all, students. However, the debate almost never includes a discussion about why the whole issue of how one dresses is almost beside the point of school in the first place. In “Freedom of Choice: The Very Best Policy,” the author claims that dress codes and uniform policies limit students’ rights to free speech, self-expression, and individuality. After a careful review of the text and the author’s claims, it is clear that school uniform policies and dress codes do not violate students’ rights or undermine important values--in fact, they actually protect students’ rights.

School uniform policies and dress codes do not violate students’ rights and undermine important values because they promote good judgment and consideration for oneself and others, which means that their right to a positive school environment are actually being protected. The author of this text uses faulty logic to discredit how uniform and dress code policies empower students’ rights and promote important values. Firstly, the text minimizes the sensibility or need for clothing that does not offend others. These sensitivities are an important part of protecting student rights. Secondly, the author claims that uniforms and dress codes stunt self-expression without distinguishing that dress codes promote individual expression with consideration of respect and appropriateness. In the text the author writes, “I know that some people argue that dress codes and uniforms help to foster a more ‘respectful’ school atmosphere by defining ‘appropriate’ clothing choices. But what do those words really mean? How does wearing the same color pants actually help build a more cohesive community?” The example that the author uses about the same colored pants equates dress codes and uniforms as the same practice and irrationally asks the audience to reconsider the usefulness of appropriateness and respect without specifically addressing why the terms are not relevant to clothing in school settings. Overall, the use of dress codes supports the students’ rights to pursue education in a positive way and does not limit a student’s self-expression to the point of restricting their freedom in unreasonable ways.

School uniform policies and dress codes do not violate students’ rights and undermine important values because clothes are not the only way that a person can express free speech or individuality. Again the author of this text uses faulty logic and writes, “It's as if we are purposefully being trained to dress alike, think alike, and act alike. But isn't this still a diverse world we live in? To me, the inevitable result of dress codes and uniforms is a student body trained to celebrate conformity and rules as opposed to individuality and innovation. It seems like a contradiction to me. Day in and day out, I hear what a multicultural world we live in. I hear that we must celebrate our differences. Yet it strikes me that the real message of a uniform or dress code policy is ‘celebrate sameness.’" This shows that the author of this text has a narrow view about what constitutes diversity and confines individuality and self-expression to what a person wears, rather than also considering a person’s thoughts, values, ethnicity, or experiences. Dress codes actually help shine a light on the person instead of their clothes, allowing the person to express more important aspect of their individuality.

There are other benefits to dress codes and uniforms too. Despite the fact that school uniforms and dress codes do restrict students’ choices to express themselves through their clothing, these policies also can prepare students for professional or industry-specific fields where certain types of clothes are needed to perform tasks, show unity as a company, or distinguish a business from a competitor. Additionally, students can express themselves through their ideas in the classroom and their contributions to their peers and school community, all of which have nothing to do with the clothes that are on their bodies.

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## The annotations below explain how revisions benefitted the organization of the essay.

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