**The Drawbacks of Uniforms**

Many schools **encourage** parents to support a school-wide uniform **policy** by claiming that uniforms **reduce** clothing costs and make providing clothing easier for parents. In reality, the cost of school uniforms has been proven to be greater than the cost of regular clothes. Within a uniform policy, schools **specify** certain items of clothing and **accessories** that must be worn by all students. Often, these items are only available for purchase from particular stores or manufacturers. This lack of purchasing options makes it harder for parents to find competitive pricing, and limits parents’ choice of how much to spend on their children's clothing. Other times, uniforms are available only from online **retailers**, which presents extra challenges for parents without **credit cards** or for students living in temporary situations.

**Vocabulary Supports**

**Accessories:** Additionalitems worn as part of an outfit, such as shoes, belts, or bags

**Encourage:** Spur, suggest, or support

**Manufacturers:** Companies that make clothing items

**Policy:** Guidelines or rules

**Reduce:** Lessen, decrease

**Specify:** Identify clearly and definitely

**Retailers:** An individual or store that sells goods to individual consumers

**Credit Cards:** Cards that allow the holder of the card to buy things using money that they will pay back to the lender in the future along with an additional payment to the lender for letting them borrow the money

**About Identifying Issues as You Develop Annotations**

An **issue** is an underlying idea that can be debated. It has at least two sides. Multiple arguments can be built from a single issue. Even opposing arguments can be built based on a single issue. For example, cost and freedom of choice are issues in the debate over school uniforms.

As you read additional texts, highlight evidence, write annotations, and consider additional issues that drive the debate. Note them in your annotations if possible. Thinking about these underlying issues now will help you organize and develop your argument later. For example, if you highlighted the second complete sentence in this text, you would want to make an annotation that mentions cost: “The author claims that it is more expensive to use uniforms, so if money is an important issue for parents, this evidence should be considered.”