

You Do You
Jamming in my Jammies

Students can wear muscle tanks to school. They can bring their Beats to school, so what's wrong with pajamas? Every time I bring my blanket to school or come in pajamas, I often get strange stares or questions of "why?" Despite the strange stares, I don't see what's wrong with bringing my blankets to school. If it makes me comfortable and warm in the cold chilly classes, then that's all that should matter.

There are also many benefits to bringing sleepwear to school, besides keeping yourself warm. Blankets offer comfort and allow you to rest during breaks comfortably. There are many instances in which students do not get enough sleep at home, and thus need the extra snooze outside of home. With sleepwear, students are finally able to rest comfortably anywhere. Blankets are also cute and can be made to look stylish.

There are just so many benefits to bringing sleepwear to school. So let's stop the blanket shaming and make wearing sleepwear outside the house a trend.

Teens Fight for Optional In-Class Presentations

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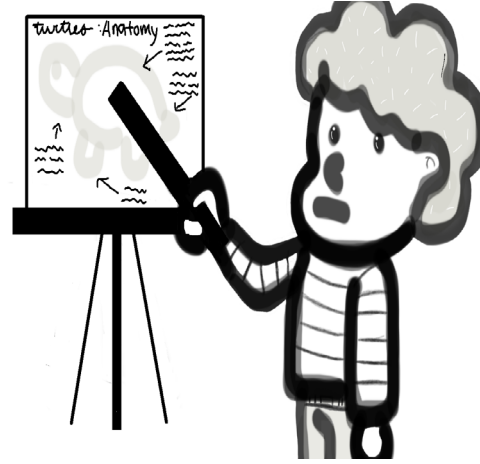
In almost every school subject, there is at least one time when a student has to get up and present in front of the class. Teachers require that the students in the class present in order to see if the student learned the material, to have them teach the class, or to assess their speaking and listening skills. Many students dread presenting in front of their own classmates, but presenting is still required.

There are many benefits to presenting in the front of a class. It can provide life skills for the students. Presenting allows practice for a student's future career. Group presentations, for example, can teach students how to work together.

This is a skill that could help greatly a field such as engineering, where a group of people with their own set of skills work together to create a product.

Another life skill is being able to present in front of an audience. Many people in their future job need to present in front of a group. Salespeople have to speak to clients and teachers have to present to their classes every day.

There are students, however, who may feel embarrassed or terrified of speaking in front of their class. While it is true that students with diagnosed conditions such as anxiety can often get documentation and accommodations to allow them to present after class, for



most other students with a fear of public speaking, presentations can be a terrifying or even traumatic experience. Some have even been reported having panic attacks when trying presenting or before or after a presentation.

Before mental health was even a hot topic in the media, teachers and students had commonly thought of anxiety as just a feeling of being scared

or as something people could just get over. Teachers today have luckily learned to be more aware and sensitive when it comes to these topics. In classrooms throughout the country, teachers and peers of mentally challenged students have become more cautious of their words, but an element of bullying still exists which pressures such students to have intense phobias of speaking in front of their classmates.

Although public speaking comes quite easily to some students, these cases seem to be causing outrage in certain parts of the United States of America. Teens in some areas have come together to try to bring about change in schools regarding the element of public speaking that is required for some classes by many teachers. The students feel that anyone who states that they wish to not present should not be penalized for choosing not to do so.

As a compromise, teachers throughout the United States could try to not push students too hard if they have a legitimate excuse. In such cases, teachers should be able to provide an alternative assignment that still tests the students' skills.

Insecure Implants

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To most, microchip implants appear to come from a plot of science fiction. In actuality, the technology to safely embed these grain-sized devices has existed since the early 2000's, when they were inserted into pets for GPS tracking. There are many potential risks, however, that could counteract the benefits the chip will bring.

The people's safety is too important to sacrifice for a desire to improve efficiency in menial tasks. Radio Frequency chips, microchips that have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, send data from the chip and its specific reader through radio antennae waves. Anyone with the same reader can intercept those waves as well - exposing a person's personal information.

The new innovation also poses possible health risks. There are anecdotes of pet owners who reported their animals dying or diagnosed with cancer because of improper placement of the chips.

Companies may plan to put microchips into the employees' arms, for example, to make simple tasks like opening doors and signing in to computers easier, but this can be counterproductive. Tracking employees violates their privacy, especially when a supervisor is able to keep track of their employees whereabouts and excursions.

Moor GRAPHICS BY JENNIFER SU

Government Alienating Families in Need

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One very damaging thing that Congress has been executing in American cities today is moving impoverished families into better neighborhoods. To test this, Congress had created the Move to Opportunity program, which helped to do research in five cities: Chicago, Baltimore, New York, Boston and Los Angeles. In these cities, vouchers were randomly distributed to families to allow them to move to a better neighborhood. After gathering sufficient research, a Harvard study concluded that these moves expanded adult earnings of children from all five cities. Unfortunately, this data only significantly applied to children under thirteen years old. Those over thirteen did not benefit as much. Due to the fact that moving poor families did not make such a big impact, the government should focus on improving neighborhoods instead.

If Congress put more effort into improving the welfare of neighborhoods, then the percentage of impoverished families would decrease. The government's main motive for moving families was to help them find better financial opportunities. However, it puts some broken families at a disadvantage. For those families with separated

parents, the children would sometimes have to live farther away from the other parent that moved. Even if the child's family had begun to make a better living, the parental support could be further weakened.



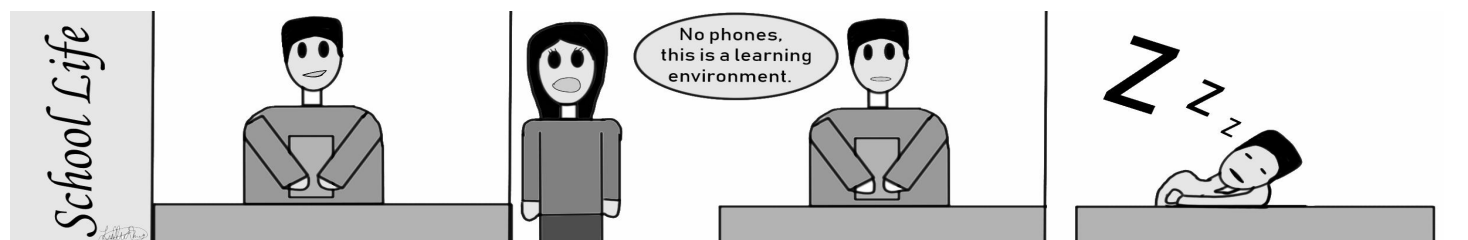
To improve neighborhoods, the government should donate money

and goods to families in need. If in any case the government is low on resources, they should request donations from other families in the cities. Not only will this benefit impoverished families, but it will also help strengthen the connections between city residents.

Improving neighborhoods has not been one of the government's priorities in today's society, which is why many families are struggling. Their first impression is that families would thrive in a new city or town, but really they could just do better in their hometowns with the government's help.

The basic common needs of families include financial aid, different types of insurance, safety and security. Financial aid and insurance could be covered simply through donations from others, but safety and security cannot always be so easily gained.

It is the government's job to make sure cities are safe for the citizens who live in them. Everyone in the city should be safe regardless of where they live in the city or how much money they make.



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