

## News Debate: Pajama Game

### *Should wearing pajamas in public be banned?*

A government official in one Louisiana community is tired of seeing pajamas on parade. Michael Williams, a commissioner in Caddo Parish (a Louisiana parish is similar to a county), is pushing for a ban on wearing sleepwear in public. Williams got the idea for the law after spotting several shoppers at a local department store wearing pajama pants that he considered too revealing. Williams has stated that indecent dress is "destroying the moral fiber of our community."

Supporters of banning pajamas-or other kinds of revealing clothing-in public argue that such attire could be offensive. Many also think that a certain level of formality should be required in public places. Those who disagree with the proposed ban argue that wearing pajamas in public is not a big deal. They say that such a ban violates people's freedom of expression.

Should pajamas be banned in public? *Current Events* student reporters Anuva Goel and Elizabeth Duis each tried on a side.

### Dress Up

Pajamas should be banned in public places because they are bedtime attire that needs to stay inside the house. Different clothes serve different purposes. Have you ever seen someone wear a swimsuit to a business meeting? No. Then why wear pajamas to a public place where they do not belong?

Additionally, in our society, a certain level of decency is expected in public places. Pajamas can be inappropriate and revealing. Such clothing can offend the sentiments of people who do not expect to see such a sight when they step outside.

Finally, what you wear speaks a lot about you. It hardly takes any time to change out of pajamas. "I think it is a shame that our society has become so lazy that [people] cannot put on clothes to leave the house," Nancy Duddy, a teacher at the Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison, N.J., says. "I feel that it says a lot about a person's self-esteem when they choose to not look their best. The way in which one dresses can also reflect their behavior. Well-dressed individuals usually have better manners and exhibit better behavior."

# PJ Party

Banning the wearing of pajamas in public is going too far. This country has freedom of expression, and restricting what clothing people can wear is taking away some of that freedom. A government telling its citizens what to wear would also open up doors for other unfair rules. Once you are being told what to wear, who's to say that you won't be told what to eat? That is a dangerous line that shouldn't be crossed.

Second, clothing gives people a way to communicate how they feel. Taking that away would hinder people's ability to express themselves. Seventh grader Grace Ahlden from Crescent City, Ill., agrees. "It's your own decision what you put on in the morning," she says, "not somebody else's."

Lastly, the only reason that this right might be taken away in the first place is because some people are being irresponsible with the things they wear. People need to realize that not everyone is behaving this way. There is a time when people need to take responsibility for their actions. The issue is not about the pajamas, really-it's about freedom. And I say freedom stays!