



WRITING A FASHION COMMENTARY

The following are guidelines for writing an imaginative & informative 4-H commentary. A Fashion Show commentary helps both the model and the audience. It cues the model when to appear on stage, what fashion details to highlight and when to leave the stage. The commentary tells the audience the model's name, information about the garment, special features of the garment and other information that can help the audience identify with the model or garment.

Keep the commentary brief. Thirty to 45 seconds is plenty of script for most outfits. One word of caution -- the commentaries should not be longer than the length of time the model is on stage.

In preparing the commentaries, write light and lively descriptions that are highly informative. Active words such as "stepping out ..." -- "in the spotlight is ..." -- "ready for ...", help keep the interest high.

Point out one or two highlights such as "detailed topstitching" or "combination of textures", and leave the rest to the eyes. An audience can easily see that the model is wearing a navy dress with navy shoes and earrings. One can tell the accessory story by using phrases like, "... worn with matching accessories" or "... a mono-chromatic look."

Use descriptive and exiting color terms ... they vary from season to season, but blueberry, midnight, raspberry, wineberry, nutmeg, and cinnamon are lively terms for blue, red, wine, gold and brown.

WHAT TO PUT IN THE COMMENTARY (*optional)

1. Lead sentences should introduce the model by name, town or club and describe the outfit in general.
2. Give the details of the garment following a logical sequence such as the top of the garment to the bottom, front to back, outside to inside.
3. * What have been the learning experiences for the model or construction techniques used?
4. * Accessories.
5. * Original ideas the model has used, techniques, trim, etc.
6. * How the garment reflects the current fashion scene.
7. * The 4-H background and special interest of the model.
8. * Amount of money saved or why she decided to make this outfit instead of buying it.
9. * Special advantages or features of this particular garment such as where it will be worn, versatility and ease of care.
10. * School and grade this fall.
11. * Awards won (school & 4-H).
12. * Other areas of project enrollment the 4-H'er is involved in.
13. Closing sentence.

FASHION SHOW COMMENTARY EXAMPLES

Example 1:

Picnic baskets and straw-brimmed hats come to mind upon seeing Gothenburg's Colleen Klein in this confectionary colored delight. She is the daughter of Calvin and Candy Klein. Colleen's loose fitting dress of polyester and cotton features a self-collar with top stitching. An elasticized waistline is hidden by a self-belt that buttons in the back, which completes the "cake and frosting" appearance of this lovely outfit.

Example 2:

Sugar and spice, ruffles and lace ... that's what Sarah Lamb used to create this snappy fall outfit. Her cinnamon gathered skirt features a dropped waistline with a bottom ruffle. The printed blouse has a unique front by sporting diagonal strips for the yoke and is accented with lace trim. Isn't this a grand look for fall. Sarah is the daughter of Larry and Linda Lamb of Meadow.

Example 3:

When the cold wind blows, Terri Andrews will be warm and snug in these cozy clothes. Appliqued penguins and snowflakes add wintry charm to her bright red sweatshirt. Terri is the daughter of Don and Mary Andrews. Who could resist Terri's penguin pals.

Example 4:

When Jennifer Smith goes to garage sales, flea markets, auctions and antique shows, she likes to collect handkerchiefs and old linens. For less than \$10, she gathered enough 1930's and 40's hankies to piece the fabric for this vest. Jennifer fused the handkerchiefs to the muslin vest pieces, then stitched along the edges to hold them permanently in place, then assemble the vest. Isn't Jennifer's vintage vest a great flea-market find?

Example 5:

"Plum-crazy!" might describe the reaction of Jodi Bratten's friends to her picture perfect, pullover, poly-cotton print dress. Side skirt pockets, a ruffled bodice, and full, banded, elbow-length sleeves accent this 4-H'er's creation. Jodi created balance in her outfit with a self-styled wrap belt for that "just right" finishing touch.

Example 6:

Short and sweet – that's the cool summery look of Dawson County's Wendy Moore. Wendy chose khaki sports-cloth for these trim-fitting, zipper front shorts. The red-orange and khaki jungle print top looks cute and cool with its open neck and cap sleeves. Wouldn't this outfit be hard to resist! Wendy's the daughter of Bruce and Sarah Moore of Cozad.
