



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.