

# Judging

by Mary Lavell

Judgment of the quality, usefulness, and appeal of objects is an important skill to develop and one that is used often in everyday life. Whether you realize it or not, you are judging things every day. From apples in a grocery store, to school notebooks, to (???), we make decisions that compare two or more things to decide which is preferred. Clothing and sewing skills decisions are no exception. Just as you would choose apples based on variety or color and check them for bruises, you look for a comfortable fabric and consistent seam in shirts, and are likely to reject them if they have messy hems.

In each class of this judging contest the participant will be asked to rank the quality of four samples of sewing or textile related items based on a prompt.

## How to judge

1. picture the ideal sample for the class
2. Imagine possible faults actual samples may have
3. examine the given samples carefully
4. determine the worst sample
5. determine the best sample
6. compare the remaining two and choose the best and worst between them

## There will be up to four classes:

Machine sewn seam  
Machine sewn hem  
Thread choice for fabric  
Fabric choice for project

## Classes:

### Machine sewn seam/Machine sewn hem

Freedom from defect  
Uniformity of stitches  
Neat  
Properly identified

Think:

- What is the purpose of a seam/hem?
- What are seams/hems supposed to look like?
- What if an entire garment had seams/hems of this quality?

### Thread choice for fabric

Color  
Quality  
Thickness

Think:

- What does the thread need to do?
- Will the thread show?

### Fabric choice for project (pattern)

Comfort if wearable  
Washable  
Durability  
Cost

Think:

- What will this project be used for?
- When will it be used?