

WRITING COMMENTARIES FOR FASHION REVUE

The Fashion Revue commentary presents the 4-H member and his/her project to the audience. The commentary is read during the fashion show while the member models the outfit entered. The narration should introduce the model, describe special features of the garment or outfit, and highlight interesting information about the project. The following are guidelines to help 4H'ers write commentaries for Fashion Revue. **Keep the narration to no more than 70 words** which will allow the member to walk on stage, make one or two turns, and then exit. Keep in mind that the Fashion Revue Committee reserves the right to re-write or revise narrations.

The specific objectives of a narration are:

- To introduce the member and his/her project
- To focus on skills learned in the 4-H project
- To express challenges, fashion trends, and cost savings
- To interest the audience in 4-H activities
- To have time to display the garment(s) attractively

Before you begin

1. Analyze the garment. What is special about it? Be sure to include color descriptions.
2. List major features you want to describe, along with a few comments that relate to the garment and how it will be worn. Create an appealing mental picture with descriptive words.
3. Study mail order fashion catalogs, magazines, the pattern envelope, and advertisements to see how they describe similar features. This is especially useful for beginning projects such as skirts that don't have a lot of details.

When you write

1. Describe the garment by starting with the obvious, then call the audience's attention to details such as accessories that relate directly to the garment.
2. Write everything you want to say. Don't worry about the length—yet.
3. Use alliteration (words beginning with the same sound, i.e. "flirty flounce" for ruffle).
4. Use action words, i.e. "a belt circles the waistline," "a flaring hem swings").
5. State the biggest problem you encountered in sewing the outfit or what new sewing technique you learned. Saying that you put in the sleeve six times can encourage some of your audience.
6. If there are two parts to the outfit (ex: coat and dress) mention the outer layer first.
7. Be sure to write in the third person. Instead of writing "I am wearing," write "Sally is wearing."
8. Add one sentence that talks about you, the model. Be sure to include your name and club either at the beginning or towards the end of the narration.

Edit

1. Polish your narration and cut out repetitious phrases or ideas. Keep sentences short and avoid words that may be difficult to pronounce. Aim for clear, concise phrases that create audience interest. Make it as bright, crisp, and informative as possible. The audience is there to learn about new fashion as well as to be entertained.
2. Read your narration aloud to a friend. Does your friend understand what you are talking about? Practice modeling with your narration. Does this bring to mind other things that you might say? Re-edit and re-read.

- Finally, cut the narration to 70 words or less for County Fashion Revue. Hyphenated words count as two words.

Examples of Narrations

- “Gleaming in her sequined skirt, Kathleen Mitchell from Clover County is modeling a stylish denim look. This once lonely remnant now has a multi-purpose. It will be this year’s Easter outfit, and then be worn as a casual around-the-town skirt. It has a light feeling with its back slit. Her biggest challenge was matching the sequins as she cut out the fabric. Kathleen is in her second year of sewing.
- “Christina Williams from California County will be warm and stylish in her wool outfit. The black jacket is lined, with princess seams and a center zipper. She used a Vogue pattern to sew her jacket and shortened it to fit her own personal style. The skirt is lined at the yoke and has an invisible zipper. Christina designed the pleats because she could not find a pattern that she liked.

Helpful Words for Writing a Commentary

accent	accessorize	adds to	apparel	appeal	casual
challenge	chic	classic	closure	coordinate	compliment
construct	create	decorate	design	elegant	embellish
enhance	fashionable	festive	flatter	founce	gleaming
highlight	modeling	modern	one of a kind	outfit	pastel
rare	sew	shimmering	showing	sparkly	special
stitch	stylish	trendy	unique	unusual	wear

DRESSING ROOMS

Members should bring their Fashion Revue outfits on hangers. It is suggested that participants bring a duffel bag to hold street clothes while in “show” outfits. Please do not bring valuable items. Only participants of the same gender are allowed in dressing rooms. Adults or other family members wishing to assist their delegate with hair, tying bows, etc. are encouraged to meet in the area set aside for this purpose. The CFR committee will restrict access to dressing rooms, per CA 4-H policy, see <http://ucanr.org/sites/UC4-H/Administration/Policies/Chapter11/>. IV. Youth Protection, G. Respect for an individual’s privacy.

COUNTY FASHION REVUE ACTIVITIES

There are additional clothing and textile activities besides the competition for Fashion Revue participants and their families, conveniently located in the main Fashion Revue room. Activities may include judging contest, skill-a-thon, workshops, make it/take it and community service projects.