



Olivia Harrington
Clothing Selection



4-H Clothing Event Report Form

SENIOR

Name: Olivia Harrington

Last Grade Completed: 12 Years in Clothing Project Area: 7

Club: Belmont Badgers

You will need to submit one color photo of yourself, full length, wearing your outfit, with the accessories you will be using. Final report should not exceed six pages.

CLOTHING SELECTION THE \$20 CHALLENGE FASHION REVUE INNOVATIVE DESIGN

PROJECT GOAL AND EVALUATION

Please explain your goal/s for the Clothing Event. Did you reach your goal/s? How did you go about reaching your goals?

I needed to select outfits for my senior photos. On the recommended list of outfits from the photographer was a neutral dress, either white or black. So, I set out to search for a flattering, casual dress. I wanted a casual dress that I could dress up or down by choosing either heels or simple sandals. I ordered several black dresses online and tried them on. I struggled a bit to find one that fit my waist and flattered my curves. I am tall and I needed to find proportions that fit correctly. I was happy to find a dress that was long enough and was flattering at my waist.

CONSUMER SKILLS ACQUIRED

Identify two construction features or details of this garment and explain why you think these indicate quality garment workmanship (such as topstitching, welt pocket/s, invisible zipper, etc.).

This Boho chiffon dress features a stretchy waistline and scoop neckline, which is complementary but not revealing. The swing cut is very flattering and the cute flutter sleeves have a ruffle which falls perfectly on my arms. This dress has a nice silky lining, so it is not see-through. We took my senior photos at sunset, so I am back lit. You can see the difference the lining makes if you look at my attached photos. There is a simple button close at the neck of the dress, which improves the fit and makes it easy to go on and off.

What is the fiber content of each of the judged items that make up your outfit? What kind of care is required for the garment/outfit?

The dress is made of 100% polyester. It is machine wash gentle or hand wash. I wash the dress in the washing machine on gentle with like colors. I air dried the dress on a drying rack. I simply hung it up after washing and do not iron it. The label instructions say wash inside out, wash cold gentle, no chlorine, iron at low heat, do not dry clean, do not spin dry. I am wearing SOUL Naturalizer black comfort sandals with a round toe and block heel. They are made from a combination of man-made material and fabric. These five-year-old heels are very comfortable.

Have you changed, altered, or enhanced this garment/outfit in any way since choosing, purchasing, or making it? If yes, please explain.

I have not altered or changed this garment. I do love this dress so much that I purchased three other dresses in this same brand and style. They are a black dress with floral print that I wore for senior awards night and senior recognition at church; a kelly green dress that I wore for my graduation party and finally a white swiss dot textured patterned dress that I wore at my actual graduation under my white graduation gown.

CHOOSING CLOTHING

What category of garment type did you choose (athletic wear, formal wear, everyday wear, costume)? What occasions, purposes, or activities did you have in mind when you selected or constructed this garment/outfit? Why do you think this garment is appropriate for this occasion or activity?

This is an everyday wear dress. I purchased it specifically for my senior photos, which were done in October, 2024. Since then, I have worn it to church, to a band concert and to a reception. The photographer recommended a casual dress in a solid color that would give me some other photo options. I purchased several dresses and returned them except this one. I am tall, so I struggle to find dresses that are long enough to not show my behind. Dresses that are maxi dresses on others, hit me mid-calf which is not flattering. I think those make me look like a pioneer woman.

How do the accessories you have chosen improve the overall appearance or functionality of your garment/outfit?

Choosing these heels were an easy option for me. I have had them for several years and the block heel makes them comfortable to walk and stand. I am wearing a double set of simple gold hoops. I really like gold jewelry and I was finally able to get my ears double pierced a year or so ago. Many of my school activities require you to remove all jewelry. I chose simple accessories because I was changing my clothes on the street in downtown Des Moines. My dad was carrying a changing tent and my mom would hand me a new outfit and shoes. It was an adventure.

How does this garment/outfit express your personality or, if a costume, the personality of your character? How is the color, fabric, style, or fit of this garment/outfit a good choice?

Prior to purchasing this dress, I had two other black dresses which were opposite ends of the clothing spectrum. One was an extremely dressy cocktail dress and the other was a super casual t-shirt material shirt dress. This dress can be both casual and dressy depending on what accessories you use. The black heels dress it up a bit and I have a pair of black strappy sandals that make it more casual. The fit is good because it is long enough to just be above the knee. The elastic waist falls just above my natural waistline, which is the slimmest part of my figure.

Why do you think the fabric is a good choice for the garment design and features?

The beauty of a garment that is made of polyester is that it is generally sturdy and washes and wears well. Polyester is a man-made product which is essentially a type of plastic. It was first invented in the mid-1900's and became known for its resilience, and its wrinkle free characteristics, in the seventies. Polyester has certainly changed and improved since then. The fibers are durable and lightweight. It dries very quickly. There are concerns about fast fashion being bad for the environment, but I plan to wear this dress long term instead of wearing it and discarding it.

In what way did the design elements and principles found in this garment/outfit help you to choose this garment/outfit? Participants in grades 9-10 are responsible for identifying a minimum of one design principle (rhythm, emphasis, proportion, balance, unity) and the element(s) (shape/form, color, texture, line) used in the selected principle. Participants in grade 11-12 are responsible for identifying a minimum of two design principles and the elements used in the selected principles. Youth must explain how the elements are used to illustrate the selected principle(s).

The dress has stretchy empire waistline and the scoop neckline provides good chest coverage. The proportion of the top of this dress is complimentary to my shape. I have a traditional hourglass shape. The key to dressing this body shape is to follow its natural silhouette by proportionally dressing the top and bottom of the body while accentuating the waist. The design principle of proportion is about the right balance regarding shapes, sizes, and weights. The cute flutter sleeves and make the ruffle fall perfectly and provide balance for my hips. The next principle of fashion design used in this dress is rhythm. This principle can be achieved through the use of line, pattern, and color. When all the elements are balanced in frequency, size, direction, or placement, it will create rhythm within an outfit. The flowing sleeves and subtle ruffle on the skirt create interest and rhythm. Rhythm makes the designs more pleasing to look at by creating a sense of order that attracts the eye. It helps add an element of sophistication and elegance while creating visual harmony at the same time. The solid color holds everything together, but the addition of the gathered waist, sleeves and ruffle also add movement. Movement is important to keep your eyes moving through the design.

KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR COSTS

If you are using accessories you had on hand already, do not include them in your accessory total.

How much did the garments cost in your outfit total? \$40.65

How much did any NEW accessories cost? \$0

ADD garment and accessory costs to get **TOTAL OUTFIT COST:** \$40.65

How many times per year do you plan to wear this outfit? 5

Divide the total outfit cost by the number of times per year to calculate the average cost per wear: \$8.13

Explain why the cost per wearing, care required, and wardrobe addition of this garment/outfit is reasonable in terms of your total clothing budget.

I love fashion and clothing. I continue to work to find garments that are flattering and well-constructed. I like a blend of good prices, comfortable clothing and good fit and construction. This dress falls into that category for me. It is well made, relatively inexpensive and fits a need in my wardrobe. I haven't changed much in size in the past several years, so this will be a dress that will fit me for many years to come. I plan to take it to college with me and tuck it in my closet in case I need a dressy outfit. The durability and easy care make an easy choice to take along.

Explain how this outfit and its accessories enhances and expands your wardrobe or meets your need for a specific occasion.

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ABOUT YOU

Which of your 4-H experiences have been the most beneficial to you and why?

4-H has really changed my comfort level speaking in front of people. I used to be terrified of public speaking and actively avoided it. I was so shy around new people. As I have grown through 4-H, I look for opportunities to volunteer and lead. I've spoken about my 4-H experiences and spent time explaining the skill development and growth it promotes. I work with younger 4-Hers encouraging involvement in clothing and fashion. I've come a long way from the shy girl I used to be. Those communications skills will benefit the rest of my life.

What are your future education and/or career goals?

English majors are equipped with critical thinking skills, effective communication and analytical skills, which are all skills desired by employers. My desire to be an English major started with my love of books. An avid reader, I always have a book with me. I work part-time at a library. This gives me an opportunity to recommend books I love and learn about new books. I am interested in a career in technical writing or researching. This is a perfect job for someone who is exacting, detail oriented, and dependable like me.

Who has been the most influential person in helping you select or sew your outfit? In what ways did this person influence your learning and/or decision making?

My mom is always there for me. She pushes me to try clothes that I would not have tried on my own. Sometimes it works sometimes it doesn't. There are items in my wardrobe I have because of her encouragement. She also speaks the truth, if something is amazing she says it. If there are better choices, she tells me that too in a gentle way. We discuss purchase price verses number of wears. As I have gotten older, she has grown to rely on me to help her with fashion choices. She will show me two outfits for a dressy event and ask my opinion or borrow my accessories.

CLASS-SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Please answer only the set of questions on this page that apply to the class in which your exhibit is entered.

CLOTHING SELECTION AND \$20 CHALLENGE ONLY

Tell the story of how and where you purchased/acquired your outfit.

I purchased my dress on Amazon. I went to Dillard's to purchase many of the outfits I wore in my senior photos because they have good quality garments and I can always find outfits in my size. However, I could not find a simple neutral dress. Amazon used to have this program called "Try Before You Buy" and I loved it. Unfortunately, it was discontinued. So, I added several black dresses I was interested in to my Amazon cart and ordered them. There was a mix of good and bad choices, but this dress really stood out. I thought I was really flattering and I eventually chose it.

FASHION REVUE ONLY

Which garment(s) of this outfit did you construct yourself?

What brand of pattern(s) and pattern number(s) did you use?

Did you make any pattern adjustments before you cut your garment(s)? If so, explain.

INNOVATIVE DESIGN ONLY

How did you develop the design concept for this outfit?

What unconventional approaches did you take to create the look or functionality of your outfit?

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