

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 4-H'ers write commentaries for Fashion Revue. For SFR, keep the narration to no more than 60 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. (A belt circles the waistline, a flaring hem swings, etc.)
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 "I am wearing," it is "Sally is wearing".
8. Add one sentence that talks about you, the model! Be sure to include your name and county, or city, 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.
3. Finally, cut the narration to 60 words or less for State Fashion Revue. Hyphenated words count as two words. County events may have different length requirements.

Examples of Narrations

“Kathleen Mitchell from Clover County is modeling a stylish denim look. This once lonely remnant will be this year’s Easter outfit, and then be worn as a casual around-the-town skirt. Kathleen’s biggest challenge was matching the sequins as she cut out the fabric. She is in her second year of sewing. (51 words)

Thank you, Kathleen. (This line is not part of the word count.)

“Christina Williams from California County will be warm and stylish in her wool outfit. The black jacket with princess seams is lined in contrasting gray. She used a Vogue pattern and shortened it to fit her personal style. The gray print skirt features an invisible zipper with pleats that she designed herself. (52 words)

Thank you, Christina.

Helpful Words for Writing a Commentary

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