

Suggestions for Writing 4-H Fashion Revue Commentary

An imaginative and informative 4-H fashion revue commentary helps the model and the audience. The commentary tells 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, the garment style, the special features of the garment, and other interesting information.

In preparing commentaries:

- ⌚ Write light and lively descriptions
- ⌚ Be informative
- ⌚ Use active words, such as "Stepping out. . ." or "'Ready for . . ."
- ⌚ Use questions to keep the audience interested
- ⌚ Use "fashion" adjectives, popular "fashion" words, and catchy phrases.
- ⌚ Remember that the commentary about the outfit should not be longer than the length of time that the model is on the stage. Usually the model walks to center stage, goes to each side, and exits. Be brief!

Descriptions in a commentary might include some, but not all, of the following:

- ⌚ A lead sentence introducing the model by name and describing the outfit in general
- ⌚ Details of the garment
- ⌚ What the model learned about selection or construction techniques.
- ⌚ Accessories used
- ⌚ Original ideas in techniques, trims, and/or accessories
- ⌚ How the garment reflects the current fashion scene
- ⌚ The 4-H background and special interest of the model
- ⌚ Fiber content and fabric type
- ⌚ Amount of money saved
- ⌚ Special advantages or features of the garment, such as where it will be worn, versatility, ease of care.

Helpful Hints on Developing a Script

Use correct terminology when describing skirt shapes, necklines, sleeves. Note new fashion and design details.

Use action words - repetition (pleats, pleats and more pleats!).

USE SHORT SENTENCES - with *PUNCTUATION!!!!* It needs to be easily read.

Use questions and exclamations to give more variety to tone of voice.

Create an appealing mental picture with descriptive words. (Ice creamy tones of raspberry and lime.....).

Avoid the obvious or make it more interesting. (Rather than saying “yellow dress”, make it “sunny” or “lemon”; rather than “it buttons up the front”, say “buttons brighten the front”).

Use ACTION words as much as possible. (Buttons march, belts circle a waistline, a flaring hem swings, etc.).

Tell the biggest problem that was encountered in sewing the outfit, what new sewing techniques were learned. Saying she put the sleeve in 6 times can encourage some of the audience who are less skilled.

Add some humor, something amusing that happened while sewing. (In her rush to finish the dress, Sue put the zipper in upside down).

As you complete your commentary, go over it to see where it could be made more cheerful, complimentary, brighter.

Read it aloud when completed. Does it flow smoothly?

Getting Ideas

- Ideas for commentaries which fit the stage decorations can come from fashion magazines, columns in newspapers, and booklets.
- Read copy (description of clothes), in fashion magazines or leaflets put out monthly by pattern companies. They are great for fun words, current style descriptions.
- Descriptions on the pattern envelope can give some good ideas.
- Use a dictionary and a thesaurus for new words or phrases.

An Activity for Practice

After everyone has a chance to go over the suggestions for writing commentary, break into groups of two or three. Pick one person's outfit, even if it's jeans and a T-shirt, and write a fashion commentary that makes the outfit and the model appealing. Read it aloud while the person models. Everyone can take turns practicing modeling, writing commentary, and narration.



ion Revue/Scrip & Commentary/commentary suggestions