

## Essay #2 – Fashion and Culture – MW Class

For this essay you will analyze connections between clothing styles and the larger culture. You have a couple choices of how to do this:

1. Analyze two or three moments in your life when you wore different styles of clothing. Who or what were you trying to look like? What messages were you trying to send? What were you concerned about at each of these moments? How do those messages and concerns connect with tensions or issues in the contemporary culture of the time? Here you'll need to consider not just fashion trends, but ideas and issues about social class, race, or gender. How does what you chose to wear connect to or resist any the attitudes you see in the culture about class, race, or gender?
2. **Or**, examine two or three different fashion groups you can identify on campus. What are the major characteristics of each fashion “look”? Describe and analyze each of these, connecting the clothing styles to the larger culture. What messages do these fashion choices send? What issues or attitudes in the culture do you see reflected or resisted in these fashion groups? Again, consider not just fashion trends, but also attitudes and tensions about class, race, gender.

A successful essay for either choice will include:

1. An introduction that orients your readers to your topic.
2. A clear overall point, a thesis that makes a claim about the connection you see between the clothing styles you analyze and issues or attitudes in the larger culture.
3. Clear and insightful supporting points that help focus your paragraphs and help your readers see how the body of your paper develops the overall point of your thesis. (The “P” of the PIE)
4. Ample and specific details to show your reader the fashion styles you are analyzing. (The “I” of the PIE)
5. Discussion of points from at least one the readings. You'll need to paraphrase and quote appropriately, and connect ideas from the reading to your own observations. (Plan to use at least two quotes and to document them correctly.)
6. Full explanations of how your illustrations—the specific details of different clothing styles, as well as ideas from the readings—support your points. (The “E” of the PIE)
7. A growing variety of sophisticated sentence structures, including verbal phrases. Be sure to include and underline at least two verbals, and don't forget about appositives.
8. A thoughtful conclusion that doesn't simply summarize points you've already made, but instead answers “so what?”, what are the implications, why is all this important?
9. Correct grammar and effective proofreading.

First draft: **Oct. 26** – 3 copies of 2.5 typed pages minimum.

Final draft: **Oct 28** – 3-6 pages, peer response, rough draft, homework labeled, dated & attached.