Clothing Construction

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Project Description
for
Honors Special Studies

Area of Study:
Clothing Construction

By:
Jill Starnes

Presented to:
"Mrs. Frances Elledge"

Fall Semester, 1973
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

For my honors project I chose to make a pantsuit. However, since it would be rather difficult to file a pantsuit I will try to write down for the honors project file a description of this project and why I chose this particular one.

I wanted to do a project that I would enjoy but I also wanted it to be one from which I would benefit. One reason I chose to do one in the area of clothing is that I am a senior and will be doing my practice teaching next semester and I may do part of that in clothing because I am a Home Ec major. I realize that I am far from being an expert seamstress and felt like I needed another class in clothing before I started teaching. Taking this through the Honors Program gave me the freedom to choose what I wanted to make and more practice in sewing and also the advantage of having my work evaluated by my sponsor, Mrs. Elledge.

I feel like just about anyone can put a garment together, but I don't think that just anyone can put a garment together and make it look like it was done by a professional. This takes a lot of time and patience. There is more to sewing than just picking just any pattern or any fabric you see and starting to sew. I think that patterns, fabrics, and even trimmings should be carefully chosen after shopping around to see what you have to choose from. I spent a few hours
just looking for the pattern I wanted before I ever started working with the fabric, I decided that I wanted to make a jacket and pants and I chose this pattern because it involved some sewing techniques (such as topstitching, buttonholes, pockets) that I especially felt like I needed to practice on. I chose a knit fabric because it is so easy to care for. At the end of this report I have included a sample of my material.

If I had gone to a store and bought a garment comparable to the one I made it probably would have cost approximately $45.00. The material that I used was given to me so I just had to buy the thread, zipper, pattern, and interfacing. These cost me less than $5.00. I feel like I can sometimes save a considerable amount of money by making my own clothes. But even the money saved is not worth it to me if the garment is not well constructed. This is why I feel that the practice is so important — it's the only way to become a better seamstress.

Along with my sewing I also did some reading from the book Creative Clothing Construction by Illyane Hayne. I suppose the reason that I enjoy her books so much is that I completely agree with her philosophy about sewing. I really feel that sewing is creative because it gives you a way to express your individuality by the styles and fabrics that you choose.

So I do feel like I have benefited from this project. I have accomplished my main goal — to learn more about
sewing techniques which will help me in teaching. Some of this I learned on my own and some from Mrs. Elledge. Also, and maybe more important than the other, this has given me more self-confidence—which may help me more in teaching than just knowing the right techniques.

An example of my fabric.

Information too general—specific conclusions and more detail would improve this project.

Grade B.