

Writing Narrations

An informative 4-H style review narration can be a great aid to both the model and the audience. The narrator can use it to tell the model when to appear on stage, what fashion details to emphasize and when to leave the stage. The commentary can also be used to tell the audience the model's name, the garment style, the special features of the garment and other interesting features.

In general, it is a wise idea to write a light, lively and informative description. The following suggestions may be helpful in writing an imaginative 4-H narration.

1. Remember that the commentary, which should have an opening, middle and conclusion. It should not be longer than the length of the time the model is on stage. Usually the model walks to center stage, goes to each side and exits the stage.
2. Descriptions of a style review should begin with a lead sentence introducing the model by name, his or her town and is followed by a general description of the outfit. This sentence is the most important and should be snappy to catch the audience's attention.
3. Tell more than what the audience can readily see, however, people are usually more interested in what they can't see.
4. Use questions as well as "fashion? Adjectives, words and catchy, active phrases like "Stepping out is . . . "and "Ready for . . . ".
5. Include what the model has learned about the selection or the construction techniques, the accessories she/he selected, the original idea the model used in techniques and trims and the 4-H background and special interest of the model.
6. Include information about the garment, for example, how it reflects the current fashion scene, its fiber and fabric content, the amount of money saved by sewing the outfit and the special advantages or features of the garment, such as where it could be worn, its versatility and ease of care, etc.
7. Mention the leader's name so that she/he will receive the recognition they deserve.
8. A narration in tune with the theme of the show helps to set the mood. A good example is complementing the following theme, "Color My World" by saying "Suzie has added a bright dimension to her wardrobe by choosing to make a scarlet red skirt. Her snowy white cowl neck sweater is color coordinated to accent the A-line skirt" . . . instead of "Suzie made a red skirt."

To find examples of catchy words and phrases, look through magazines, catalogs, cosmetic brochures, etc., for help and use your imagination. The following words may give you some ideas:

Feminine	striking	finishing touch
Luscious	complementary	crisp
appealing	formal	simple
neatly tailored	tiered	mid-calf
casual	soft	gleamy

nostalgic	wear ability	natural
practical	lavish	delicate
sensational	Victorian	pale
snappy	street length	basic
classic cut	textured	subtle
fresh	seasonal	flashy
glittery	smooth	frilly
elegant	rolled sleeves	lacy
multi-purpose	eye-catching	focus on . .
spirited	versatile	crinkly
old-fashioned	jazzy	intimate
attention getter	tartan plaid	boxy
teamed with	creative	separate ways

Other catchy phrases that could be used are “. . . can wear anytime, anywhere”, “for after five”, “easy to care for”, “a real winner”, “easy to wear”, “romantic as a garden in spring”, “. . . has so much going for it”, “to put it all together”, “mad about plaid”, “a girl’s best friend”, “to ‘top’ it off”, “classic – here today and here tomorrow”, “a big sweater for little evenings”,

“sprinkled with flowers”, “for the career women”, “looking good from top to toe”, “new blazer shapes get double takes”, “best-dressed list”, “takes a new twist” and “simple but elegant”.

Catalogs and magazines are also good to check for examples of color adjectives you could use. Another good source is the color chards of car and paint dealers, along with yarn companies.

The following commentaries may provide some insights into what can be said at your 4-H fashion/style review:

1. Ready for school is Mary Model, a first year 4-H member from Kalamazoo. Her denim skirt is the popular wrap style is easy to wear and was fun to make. Mary learned to put on a waistband and finish seams during her project. Today she chose a bandanna print blouse to accompany her skirt for a fresh country look.
2. One thing Mary Model knows she can depend on is a gray flannel suit. Her designer blazer with a notched collar and welt pockets is a good investment of her sewing time. The fully lined skirt is accentuated by box pleats. Today she completed the look with a burgundy blouse. Of course, with this suit she has many fashion options; a soft mohair sweater or a pretty pastel blouse would look terrific. Mary is a senior at Lansing High School and intends to be a nurse. Thank you Mary.
3. Stepping into the college scene, Martin Model of Lansing has chosen to wear a versatile camel tweed jacket which is accented with deep pockets and false welts. It is also lined to give it a clean finish.

The tie accents his sky blue shirt made of broadcloth. As a finishing touch, Martin has added a pair of classic cut chocolate brown pants with scoop pockets. Besides Martin's interest in clothing, he is also active in baseball and hockey.