Consultation Reflections for "The Ethics of Getting Dressed"

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Consultation Reflections

Charvi Beniwal  Writer

My passion for writing and my interest in fashion were well-established before I came to Denison. But what really piqued my interest in this area was the "Ethics of Getting Dressed" W101 class taught by Dr. Kelsi Morrison-Atkins. My eyes were opened to the nuanced ethical issues weaved throughout the fashion industry by investigating the complex intersections of gender, sexuality, religion, and more. When the time came for our final research paper, I was drawn to the topic of sustainable fashion. The inspiration came from Lucianne Tonti's book "Sundressed," which offered a glimpse into a future where natural fibers reign supreme, gleaned from Tonti's firsthand experiences in diverse settings like farms and fashion houses.

My goal was to trace the evolution from fast fashion to sustainable fashion while addressing the nuanced challenges inherent in this transition. To diversify my understanding, I delved into academic scholarships on fast fashion and analyzed the consumer consumption model within the industry. It became evident that the rapid turnover of trends in fast fashion came with harmful implications, prompting me to explore both the steps taken and those yet to be implemented to mitigate these effects.

Initially, my ideas were scattered across the page in my first draft. However, after seeking consultation from the writing center, I was able to organize my thoughts and craft a more cohesive research paper. The revision process benefited from the expertise of the writing center consultants, who provided valuable suggestions to polish my final paper and address technical issues such as citations. My strengths were mostly the well-articulated arguments about topics but they needed to be elaborated more in some areas. I managed to work on those things and submit a well-versed paper. All in all, the journey from initial inspiration to the completion of my research paper was very fulfilling and I think I have grown a lot as a writer.

Henry Shaw  Writing Center Consultant

“The Ethics of Getting Dressed” immediately caught my attention when I first read it thanks to the incredibly well written research analysis. The essay covered the changes in fashion norms and consumer culture over time as there has been increased consciousness around environmental/sustainability concerns with the industry. Charvi displayed a ton of interest in the subject that reflected in her writing, and I was thoroughly impressed by the quality research that was performed and displayed to support her claims. When reading through her essay, I thought that overall it was a strong work, but there were a handful of small tweaks that could help the writing grow. During our consultation, we had a really positive conversation about the writing process. We covered working on establishing a more concrete timeline of the evolution of fashion in her paragraph covering the background information. A highlight of our consultation was figuring out ways we could put more of her voice and personal experience with fashion into the essay. In the initial draft, she talked about herself a little bit, but we both agreed that her writing on the subject of fashion could be strengthened if she made her coverage more personal. We also worked on strengthening the conclusion, pushing through to find the best ways possible to put a cap on the already great writing. This consultation felt like a great example of how the Writing Center helps students express themselves within their writing. We encourage writers to be themselves, and strive to express their personality through their work the best that they can.