

**CHAPTER 25 Clothing That Suits You**

**Activity 68**

# What Do Clothes Communicate?

**Directions** Read about clothing below. Then fill in the chart by placing check marks (✓) or words in the appropriate columns. Follow up by answering the questions on the next page. Put your answers on separate paper.

## Clothing Impressions

How you look influences first impressions of you. Your clothes are a big part of how you look. Clothes that are appropriate in one setting may send the wrong message in another. For example, you would not wear a swimsuit to an awards dinner or put on formal wear for an ordinary day at school.

What is appropriate also depends on personality, interests, and tastes. Some teens dress like their friends to show they belong. Some dress differently to show individuality. Consider messages that might be sent by the styles in the chart.

Clothing Styles	I like this style.		My friends and I wear this style.		I have seen others wear this style.		This style is (or should be) appropriate for school		I think this style is appropriate for this situation (If none, write "none.")
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Baggy pants									
Short skirts									
Short shorts									
Bandannas									
Spaghetti straps									
Strapless tops									
Black leather jackets									
Tight jeans									
Flip-flop sandals									

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**What Do Clothes Communicate? (Continued)**

**Activity 68**

Clothing Styles	I like this style.		My friends and I wear this style.		I have seen others wear this style.		This style is (or should be) appropriate for school.		I think this style is appropriate for this situation: (If none, write "none.")
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Jacket and tie									
All black clothing									
Clothes with sports logos									
Bare midriff (visible skin at waistline)									
Expensive designer clothing									
Faded old clothing									
Torn clothing									
Low-cut or sagging jeans									
Ankle-length skirts									

**Thinking About the Messages**

1. If you wear dirty clothes to interview for a restaurant job, what might the interviewer conclude?
2. If you wear traditional conservative clothing (dress or skirt for girls, jacket and tie for boys) to speak to school parents at an assembly, what might the parents conclude?
3. If you move to a new area and wear clothes that are obviously more expensive than most of your new schoolmates, what might your new schoolmates conclude?
4. If you move to a new area and soon start wearing the same kind of clothes as most of your new schoolmates, what might your new schoolmates conclude?
5. If you wear the logo of a particular sports team, what might sports fans conclude?
6. If certain color combinations are associated with gangs in your area and you wear one such color combination, what might members of an opposing gang conclude?
7. If you wear good new clothes to work on a carwash fund-raiser, what might the customers conclude?
8. If you start wearing a clothing style soon after your teacher complains about that style, what might your teacher conclude?