

# NARRATION WRITING TIPS

1. **Type or neatly print each narration on an 4x6 index card (one narration per card). About 6-8 sentences is adequate. Overall, when read, the narration should last around 30-40 seconds. Practice reading the narration aloud to make sure it flows smoothly.**

2. **Mention only one or two highlights of the garment as the audience can see the rest. Point out a current fashion look, interesting accessories, fabric texture, top stitching, special trim, unusual buttons, or anything not visible to the audience. You may include things like:**

- Type of fabric used
- Description of fabric color (include a comparison word) (e.g., lime green, sunny yellow, fire engine red, etc.
- When/where garment will be worn
- Challenges faced in constructing garment
- Special personal adjustments/creativity put into garment design and why
- Personal characteristic brought out by garment or accessories
- What did you learn by sewing this garment
- Approximate total cost of garment:
- Cost if purchased as ready-made wear:
- If post-high school, area of study or work interests
- Favorite school activity or class and why
- Favorite 4-H activity and why
- Something unique about yourself, whatever it may be:
  - Where you're planning to wear the garment,
- A favorite hobby or activity
- Other special involvement in 4-H/FFA. Limit activity involvement to 1-3 activities.

3. **Catch the imagination of the audience with phrases such as:**

- a. "Stripes marching across (or down) a garment"
- b. "Flowers scattered across a skirt"
- c. "Western look galloping across the horizon"
- d. "The pastel pink is as soft as a whisper"
- e. "Patriotic colors strike up the band"

4. **Incorporate some descriptive action words into your narration which may involve where or when you'll be wearing your garment. "While texting her friends or shopping at the mall, Joan will be the center of attention in this ...."**

Learning	Racing	Group	LA	Calling
Dancing	Running	Hip	New York	Sparkle
Attending	Relaxing	Cool	Big city	Dazzle
Lounging	Hanging	Dancing	Streets	Trendy
Gaming	Chilling	Debut	Corner	
Jogging	Fashion	Buddy	Downtown	
Sleeping	Mode	Friend	Hanging	
Dreaming	Style	Chum/Pal	Texting	

5. **Use descriptive words and phrases in describing the garment and/or model such as "worn with matching accessories: or "a monochromatic look," "rolled collar," "self-fabric tie," "patch pockets," "fabric-covered buttons," etc.**

Fashionable	Easy-care	New	Happy	Intense	Stylin
Stylish	Textured	Different	Attractive	Beaming	Smashing
Sharp	Beautiful	Flair	Cute	Wild	Hunk
Lively	Relaxed	Rich	Classy	Brilliant	Mood
Colorful	Trendy	Deep	Up-to-date	Glamorous	Hot
Creative	Sophisticated	Graceful	Bright	Silky	Tough
Unique	Total-look	Poised	Dynamic	Spirited	Extra Special
Bouncy	Popular	Darling	Subdued	Dashing	Wacky
Cheerful	Stands out	Charming	Dynamite	Flair	Excursion
Distinct	Shimmering	Delightful	Terrific	Sparkling	Flowing
Alive	Smooth	Latest	Explosive	Affordable	Sweet
All-purpose	Fantastic	Classic	Bold	Superb	Contemporary
Exciting	Super	Combination	Shiny	Tropical	Natural
Enjoyable	Loose	Coordinated	Flashy	Stark	Hip
Comfortable	Elegant	Sensational	Polished look	Floral	Cool
Pretty	Sleek	Funky	Metallic	Fresh	Extravagant
Glimmer	Chic	Sassy	Inspiring	Decked out	Simple
Gentle	Futuristic	Lovely	Sporting	Heads-up	Quaint
Radiant	Handsome	Sporty	Stunning	Inspiring	Stunning

**6. Use descriptive color names, such as:**

Candy pink	Maize	Crisp white	Muted gray	Peach
Fire cracker red	Aquamarine	Midnight blue	Nutmeg	Apricot
Luscious	Sea green	Mysterious black	Clove	Ivory
lavender	Atomic	black	Citrine	Banana
Icy blue	turquoise	Spring green	Blueberry	Shamrock
Stark white	Periwinkle	Soft yellow	Raspberry	green
Electric blue	Melon	Mustard gold	Strawberry	Oriental blue
	Electric lime	Cool mint	Watermelon	Harvest gold

**7. Other suggestions.....**

- a. Avoid long sentences that may be difficult to read.
- b. Use your age only if it can be considered noteworthy for a particular garment.
- c. Don't use "blah" color names. The audience can see the color. Spice it up or don't mention the color at all.
- d. Include the cost of the garment only when it is exceptionally cheap compared to a store-bought garment.
- e. Try to incorporate your hobby or interest in a way that fits with the garment. Example: "When {name} isn't on the soccer field, she'll enjoy being the talk of the town wearing her ...."
- f. Check out fashion magazines as a resource for phrases and words.
- g. **Write with enthusiasm!** Be cheery!
- h. **Get creative. The more creative the better!**

See how the following narration to start a style show is improved by being creative....

-- "To start our fashion show off, we have Sally Situation in an orange skirt and white blouse. Sally is from the Simple Stitching 4-H Club and she is 12 years old. She is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of sewing and she plans to wear this to her cousin's outdoor wedding this summer.

**IMPROVED VERSION** --Feel the cool breeze as Sally Situation of the Simple Stitching 4-H club walks by wearing her cloud-white blouse and fresh sunny orange skirt. And check out the latest style in belts that she chose to compliment her outfit. Won't she be a glimmer of sunshine when she attends the outdoor wedding of her cousin this summer? Sally is twelve years old and only in her second year of sewing. She's done an incredible job with this difficult-to-sew polyester fabric. Great job sewing Sally and thanks for being a bright spot in our day!

8. **Read your narrations out loud to make sure that it can be read smoothly.**
9. See sample narrations below. Ask an older member or one of the junior or adult superintendents for help.

## 10. Sample Narrations

### **Jane Doe, Skirt/Split Skirt & Blouse**

Jane Doe is a member of Consolidated 4-H and a second year seamstress. Can you believe she took apart a sundress and pair of pants and with a little of her sewing magic and know-how, created this awesome top and skirt? To liven up her skirt, Jane chose to take the extra fabric cut from the dress to create a ruffled hem and for extra pop made a coordinating headband to finish off this outfit. WOW! I think we'll call you Creative Jane!

### **#29, Jane Doe, Skirt/Split Skirt & Blouse**

This year Jane Doe made a blouse with silver metallic flowers that just scream "look at me!" She also made the complimenting black skirt to complete her look. Speaking of look, look if you can see the invisible zipper Jane inserted in the back of her shirt. Also notice the gathered sleeves that poof up in such a fun dashing way.

Jane is 13 years old and in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of sewing. She plans to keep sewing and we look forward to seeing more of her awesome creations.

### **#62, Jane Doe, Casual Spring; Summer 2 Piece**

Jane Doe can wear this stretch-knit skirt and top for almost anything. It can be dressed up with a pair of heels or made to look more casual with summer flip flops. Jane's knee length bubble skirt is made from a fun summery print that goes great with her cream-colored swoop necked top. To pull the outfit together, she chose to accent it with a pink tank top and gold jewelry.

Jane is a classic example of how 4-H can plant seeds for future careers. This fall, Jane will pursue her love of sewing as she heads to the University of Wisconsin – Stout to study fashion design.

### **# Jane Doe, Dress or Dress w/Split Skirt**

Take a look at Jane Doe as she walks the runway modeling her wild summer party dress. The blue lagoon animal print dress is 95% polyester and 5% spandex making this washable and wrinkle free.

Jane added her personal style to the pattern by using a blue taffeta in the bodice and by adding a sheer blue/green contrast. Her biggest challenge was matching up the wild print.

Today, Jane adds flashy lime green flip flops with a glittery blue shawl that truly shows her passion for fashion.

### **# Jane Doe, Dress/Split Skirt/Wash Fabric**

Jane Doe's nutmeg dress with orange/red flowers is the latest style in sundresses. Her necklace and white heels also add some "spice" to her total ensemble. Jane says she enjoys wearing her cute outfit which she says is both good-looking and comfortable. Something she'll need during her long hot practices as a Heatwave Show Choir participant. But no matter when she her dress, she's sure to be a real "head-turner."

### **# Jane Doe Purchased Clothing**

Another star shopper, Jane Doe, is modeling a 2-piece swimsuit and cover-up that she purchased for a total of \$49.97. Won't she be styling as she hangs out at the pool with her friends?

Besides swimming, Jane enjoys playing basketball and reading. She's also been active on the 4-H Dairy Quiz bowl team. By the color of her outfit, could you guess that she's a Holstein girl at heart?

### **# Jane Doe, Garment-Best Wear Spring/Sumr**

Dancing the night away in her vintage black vogue dress will be Jane Doe as she attend a wedding this August. Noteworthy is the raised bodice and fashionable scoop back. Also, the big beautiful bow in back that gives this dress a sassy flair and says, “Come dance with me!”

It’s great to know that by learning to sew, you can make new outfits for less than the cost of purchasing them. Can you believe Jane’s outfit only cost her \$50 in fabric and supplies? Great job sewing Jane!

