

T-Shirt Re-Style Fashion Show How-To Handout

T-Shirt Re-Style Fashion Show—Whether for one class, the whole school or your entire community, youth-oriented fashion shows are a great way to showcase student work while also building teamwork, self-esteem and confidence. Here are a few tried and true tips for putting on a great show:

- 1) Determine The Theme** – This is easy: T-shirt fashion created by youth. However, if students want to put on a fashion show every quarter, try themed fashion shows such as seasons (i.e., summer vacation, winter wonderland), literature (i.e., *Interviews with a Vampire*, *Great Gatsby*), or rock star.
- 2) Choose Location & Delineate Runway Space** – Whether you are staying in your classroom or using the school gym, creating a “catwalk” is a must; use a carpet runner, decorative masking tape, string, sheets, plywood, anything you have at hand; make a distinction between the fashion and the audience.
- 3) Fashion Show Lighting** – If you can swing it, even the simplest light changes can add ambiance and impact to your fashion show. String lights, a colored spot bulb, and/or a black light bar do a lot to spark the mood; and if you have a disco ball, this is definitely the time to use it! The lighting and music will add pizzazz and professionalism to the show.
- 4) Fashion Show Music** – Music is a great instigator of fun, and you definitely want your fashion show models and audience members to have fun. Work with your students to choose the correct style of music for your fashion show: something that fits the theme and offers a little something for everyone. Instrumental music works best as instrumental music will not distract the audience's attention from the fashion show. If you are going with songs that have lyrics, make sure they are age-appropriate and do not distract from the main event—the fashion!
- 5) Select Host** – All fashion shows need a willing host to introduce the show, present descriptions of each design and talk about the designer. Find a student who loves to be onstage even if that student is not in your class. The host must be at ease talking in front of an audience and use their energy and excitement to put audiences in the mood for your fashion show. Look for your school comedian, drama star or ham!
- 6) Determine Models** – Not all student designers want to model their own creations so be open to students picking friends to stand in for them. You can get the designers to create a list of the students they want to ask to model for them. Regardless of what you decide, make sure models want to be there: even if they are shy or nervous, the desire to model will carry them through to show time!
- 7) Rehearse** – Rehearsals make the fashion show go much smoother in real time while also giving students a chance to get over their butterflies before the audience arrives. Always leave more time for rehearsal than you think you need, especially when working with youth!
- 8) Recruit Volunteers** – There are many people who will be willing to volunteer services and goods for your fashion show (thus saving costs and distributing the work). Possible volunteer positions include: someone to create a catwalk; someone to run lights and sound; someone to assist the models backstage; another to maintain a smooth rotation of models as they walk on and off of the stage; people to greet guests and pass out programs; and people to bring food.
- 9) Promote Show** – Once all the planning is in place, you must promote your fashion show. Depending upon the scope of your fashion show, you can put up posters, announce the show on local radio stations, in the school bulletin and newspapers and send out email announcements. If you want to put on a community-wide event, students can create a fashion show program and sell ads to local businesses.
- 10) Let Spontaneity Be Your Super Power** – The best thing for a successful youth fashion show is to leave plenty of room for spontaneity. Predictability is a boring trait for a school fashion show. If something goes wrong, use it to your advantage. Spontaneity will keep the audience guessing, and they won't even notice that you are too! Of course, most important of all, is to HAVE FUN!