

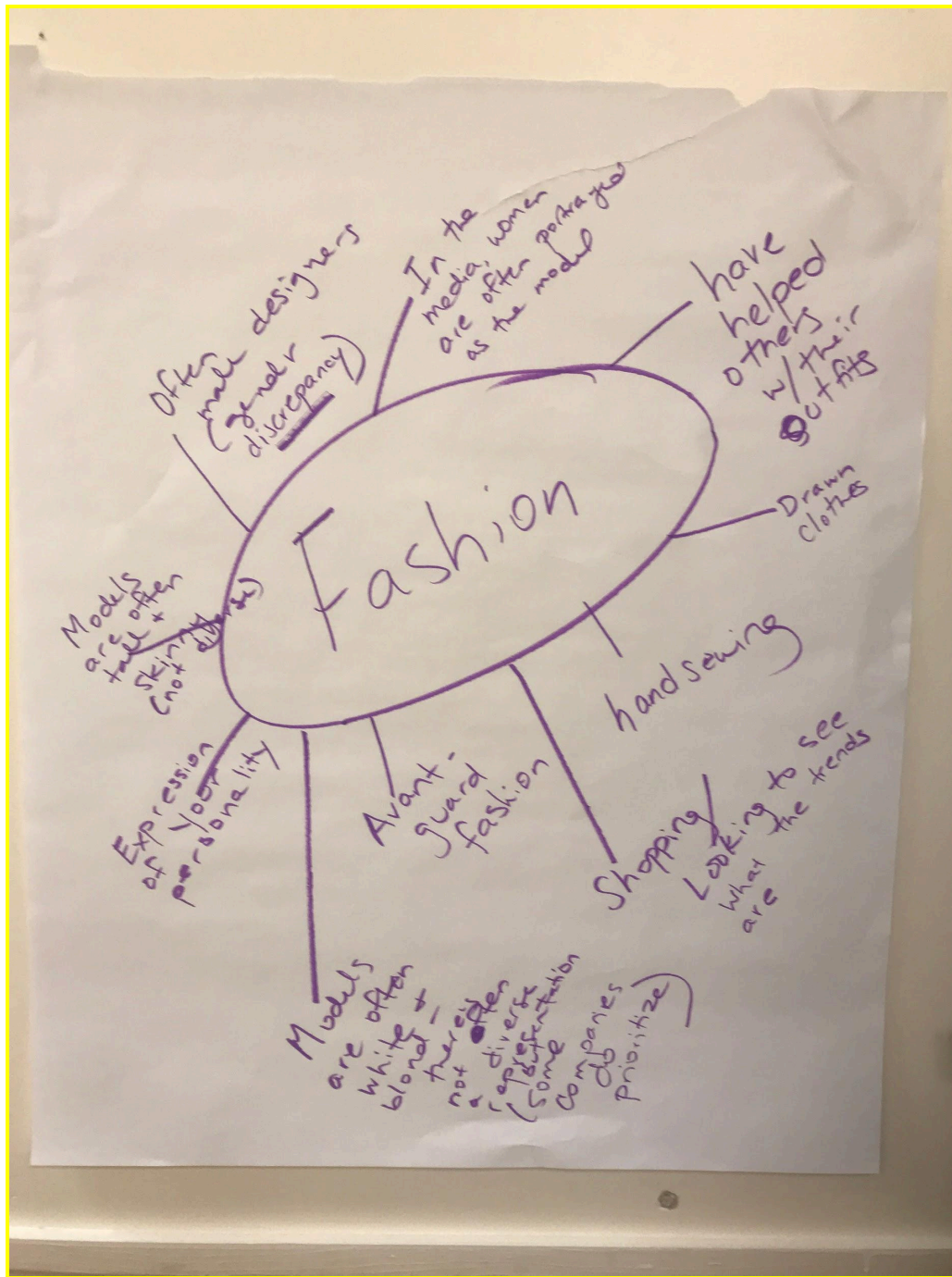
Fashion Rensizzle 2017



Day 1:

Description of the Day:

Today we explored the idea of what fashion means to us. We also took our first class at the New York Sewing Center. Students learned the fundamentals of machine sewing while making their own tote bags. They had an opportunity to personalize their bags with patches. It was a fun filled day for all!



Student Reflections from Day 1

- Today I learned how to make a tote bag and how to hot glue a patch and how to prepare a sewing machine.

- In this trip I learned how to use a sewing machine. I made a simple cute tote bag. I felt so proud of myself. At home I would sometimes do hand sewing and make small toy plushies but now this really boost up my sewing skills. I really like the sewing class. It also takes time to make fashion creative, and beautiful. Also I learned that. It sometime cost a lot of money to buy a tote bag, but sometimes making it yourself can save you money
- I learned a lot today and enjoyed it. I learned how to use a sewing machine which was great. I learned how to thread on the machine and where to place the material.



Day 2:

Description of the Day:

Today we went back to the New York Sewing Center to try our hand at hand sewing. Students applied these skills while they created their own masks for the upcoming holiday. Students spent significant time looking at the impact of their design choices and making decisions accordingly. The result were masks that reflected their unique selves! Upon our return to school we looked at sweatshop labor, its connection to global poverty and made connections to our own lives. This investigation culminated in a four corner debate which had students question and deepen their understanding of the impact of sweatshops.









Our finished MASKS:



Student reflections on sweatshops:

- I learned about the topic of sweatshops and how people/kids don't get paid enough money. In a sweatshop they get paid $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents per hour. The bathrooms are filthy. They get punished/hurt and it's not fair.
- My experience with fashion is different now than before since my fashion group deeply discussed sweatshops. Before I was in the group I thought that fashion is just the clothes you wear, but I never deeply thought about it. Unfortunately, I now know that to make some clothes, garment workers in a sweatshop can go through much troubled times making the clothes we are wearing right now. It's important to research where your clothes come from to make sure they are NOT sewn in a sweatshop.

Day 3: Wednesday

Today we sewed a draw string bag, a handy pouch to store your shoes during a trip or to store any accessories. We used a **zig zag stitch** with a vibrant colored thread that would pop against the jean material. A tricky part was ensuring not to see over the fabric where the string was supposed to go. If we had done that, we wouldn't have been able to needle the string through it! We then sewed patches that gave our bags our own unique stamp!



Our finished draw-string bags:



In the afternoon, we learned about “planned obsolescence.” Basically this means that many companies create products that quickly become obsolete so that consumers can buy more of the same product, even though there’s nothing wrong with what they originally have. Fashion falls under this trap because trends quickly fall out of style, like certain style shoes, and once they’re out of style, consumers often feel like they must buy more shoes (or whatever the product is) so that they’re keeping on trend. This is a problem because it creates a lot of unnecessary waste that is bad for the environment. So, where do all these clothes often end up then? They often end up in garbage dumps that pollute the earth.

*******Insert images of boot styles one year vs another year *******

Some solutions to this problem (that we brainstormed) are:

- Buy less
- Recycle your clothes
- Reuse your clothes for other things
- Protest inhumane practices like sweatshops
- Inform people about these larger issues

Day 4: Thursday

Today we created a cosmetic or pencil case bag. This was very exciting because we learned how to sew on a zipper! This was fun because we can now make an assortment of clothes that require zippers and it was also interesting to change the regular sewing foot on the machine for the zipper foot.









Many of us are proud of our last day because we finally didn't prick our fingers with the pins! We also learned the right speed to press the peddle as we sewed, so that our stitches would be neat and straight.

Our finished ZIPPER pouches:



This week has been amazing! We learned how to sew and we also learned about some serious issues, like the terrible conditions in sweatshops and how planned obsolescence impacts the fashion industry.

