Article: The Sexualization of Girls

Reading Assignment

Read the assigned article to deepen your understanding of fashion, culture, and the theory of dress.

Article: The Sexualization of Girls: New Study Confirms Disturbing Trend of Children Dressing and Acting Provocatively

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Purpose of This Assignment

Please read the assigned article and watch the videos in the module to deepen your understanding of fashion, culture, and the theory of dress.

These materials are provided to help you explore how clothing reflects identity, values, and traditions across different cultures and societies.

What You Will Gain from This Resource

Engaging with these resources will:

- Strengthen your critical thinking skills
- Help you make meaningful connections between fashion, cultural expression, and personal identity
- Build key concepts in understanding the true meaning of dress around the world

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Key Concepts to Consider While Reading

As you read this article, pay attention to:

The Role of Media and Marketing

- How media and advertising influence children's clothing choices
- The impact of marketing on perceptions of appropriate dress
- The relationship between consumer culture and children's fashion

Dress and Identity Development

- How clothing choices affect self-image and identity formation
- The messages that clothing sends about values and expectations
- The role of parents and caregivers in guiding dress choices

Societal and Cultural Implications

- How cultural norms around dress have shifted over time
- The broader social implications of children's fashion trends
- The responsibility of the fashion industry in designing children's clothing

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Connection to Course Concepts

This article connects to key themes in our study of dress, culture, and theory:

- **Symbolic Interaction Theory:** How clothing communicates messages about identity and values
- **Ethics of Dress:** The moral implications of fashion choices and industry practices
- **Cultural Influence:** How society shapes expectations around dress and appearance
- **Self-Presentation:** How dress affects how others perceive us and how we perceive ourselves

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Reflection Questions

After reading the article, consider the following:

1. What factors contribute to the trends discussed in the article?
2. How does dress influence identity development in children and adolescents?
3. What responsibility do parents, media, and the fashion industry have in addressing these issues?
4. What connections do you see between this article and the course concepts on dress and culture?

Next Steps

After reading this article, be prepared to:

- Discuss your observations in the weekly Discussion Activity
- Connect the article content to your chapter readings on dress and identity
- Consider the ethical implications of fashion marketing and design
- Apply these concepts to understand the broader impact of dress on society