

PARTIAL DRAFT EXAMPLE ESSAY

The historical costume and dress community on YouTube focuses on clothing and accessories from different periods in history. Content creators in this community include different types of people and production companies, with everything from costume designers to historians to hobbyists. There are also several types of videos in this community. Some videos are more informational about different periods or specific clothing types and some answer commonly asked questions about historical clothing. This paper will analyze a different common type of video in this community, which is the Historical Getting Dressed video.

The Historical Getting Dressed videos show and explain how someone would get dressed in a particular time and place, such as 15th century Florence. When you watch the video, you can see a person getting dressed as if it's the start of their day while also seeing the different parts of the outfit. The videos are both educational and entertaining. The intended audience for these videos is likely people who find historical clothing interesting, but they may also be for people who are really into a specific historical period or people who are interested in history, in general. I've also seen videos produced by and commented on by costume designers, so while that audience isn't likely large enough to be the primary audience given the popularity of some of these videos, they are likely another audience.

The titles of these videos typically inform the reader about what clothing will be shown in the video. The era is almost always included in the title. Additional information is often also included, such as the type of clothing, the type of person, or the occasion for the clothing. For example, one video by @CrowsEyeProductions is titled, "Getting

Dressed in WW1 - Hospital Blues Uniform.” The viewer would then know that the era of dress is WW1 and the type of clothing is the hospital blues uniform. Some video titles include more information, such as a video by @SnappyDragon which is titled “Getting Dressed in the Tenements in 1881: my working class ancestor's Victorian morning routine.” Other videos may include even less, such as the video by @NationalMuseumsLiverpool titled, “Getting dressed in the 18th century.” The first of those two video titles includes the era, the location, and the type of person—someone living in the tenements. The second title includes very little information, but it is still clear when the clothing would have existed. Since the historical aspect of the clothes is the primary focus of these videos, it makes sense that the videos would always include the era. But I also noticed that when the location isn’t included, there seems to be an assumption or bias towards Northern Europe or England as the place, which may be due to these videos being produced in English.

Within the videos, Historical Getting Dressed videos tend to follow a similar format. They start with a person in their nightclothes and then show the person getting dressed to start their day, typically starting with the person in their nightclothes, since in many eras those would have also been their undergarments to their daytime clothes. They may also include some background information on the era before getting to the clothing and getting dressed. For example, in the video on getting dressed in the tenements, @SnappyDragon starts by explaining a little about the era and how her grandmother lived in the tenements. Then the video shows a young woman starting her morning by walking across the room and then starting to get dressed. Similarly, the video by @NationalMuseumsLiverpool on getting dressed in the 18th century starts at

the beginning of a woman's day. This video, however, also shows a maid who is already dressed in the room to help the woman who will be getting dressed. Even though it isn't specifically stated in this video, it can be assumed that the woman getting dressed in this video would have been middle to upper class. By following this format of starting with the person getting up first thing in the morning and then showing the person getting dressed, the viewer can see how the whole process would have been done in order. Since many clothes of different eras were often more complicated, especially upper-class clothing which as shown in many of the videos required help to put on, showing the person getting dressed illustrates how the clothing items worked and give insight into what the clothes might have been like to wear also.