

LP POST #3

In my dress practice interview, I noticed a few prominent themes arise and those were: frequency of wear, organization, and order and disorder. My interviewee, Cate, had specific types of items that she wore more frequently than others and those items whether it be favorited shoes or frequently worn clothing were given an organized spot on either shelf, hanger, or drawer. This led to items of less frequency wear to be placed in a disorderly way. For instance, for Cate's shoes that she does not wear often she has them tossed under her bed unorganized and random, or for clothes, she doesn't wear she cast them to the back of her closet for seasonal reasons. Furthermore, I felt order and organization were big themes because I observed that Cate's wardrobe is not organized by color but instead category and season.

Moreover, I also learned that Cate's daily dress practice had gotten more casual, time efficient, and sporty with her move to Tuscaloosa. As Sophia Woodward emphasizes, "Young women who had lots of inactive clothing usually had had a lifestyle change."¹ Moving to such a casual and warm place this made a good portion of Cate's wardrobe inactive for most days instead of the occasional dress up on weekends or for special events. Additionally, when she was living in New Orleans, her daily dress habits consisted of a basic school uniform. I can relate to Cate's transition from a high school uniform to her own personalized daily dress routine because I also had to wear a school uniform every day before going to college in New York. However, my experience differed, because instead of choosing to wear leggings every day; I instead like to dress up because at Parsons and even living in New York City I am immersed in a fashionable environment daily and I take pride in being a part of that community. The subject position I would say differs the most between Cate and I's situations is location. Location is one of the prime factors determining our daily dress habits, besides my love of style and fashion. My interview with Cate strongly impacted my understanding of the dynamic relationship between clothing and the body. I now understand that we as people each have a unique and personalized connection with clothing and its relation to our bodies. To Cate, it is always essential for her personality and New Orleans heritage to show whether she is in casual athleisure wear or if she is all dressed up and more on the fashionable side.

¹ Woodward, Sophie. *Why Women Wear What They Wear*. Oxford: Berg, 2007.

