

Create That Perfect Wardrobe

4-H Clothing and Textiles Project

Selecting What's Right for Me

Project Outcome: Create a wardrobe plan.

Project Mastery Indicator: Completion of Wardrobe Plan.



If you are like most people, you have lots of clothes in your closet but often feel you have nothing to wear. With a little planning and know-how, you can organize your closet and know what you need to buy to create that perfect wardrobe. This will mean looking at what you have now, determining what you will need, and taking steps to get those items.

Create Your Own Seasonless Wardrobe

Before taking inventory of what you have, here are some guidelines to help you in mastering the art of creating that perfect wardrobe.

Select Basics Your wardrobe should be built around “basics”—pieces that are easy to layer and never go out of style:

Black tank top: A white tank looks right at the gym and for casual outings, but a black one can be worn with everything from khakis to a cocktail skirt.

Crewneck sweater: Opt for thin knits in cotton that layer easily.

Jeans: It's worth paying extra for jeans that actually fit and flatter. Your best bet? Stretch denim with no more than 2 percent Lycra (the fabric will follow your curves and keep its shape).

Long-sleeve white T-shirt: Looking thin in white doesn't have to be difficult. The trick? Choose a slim-fit T-shirt that skims over your body (but doesn't cling).

Khakis: Forget the pleats (a flat front is more flattering) and forgo the front crease, too. After all, these are casual pants.



More Basics

Black pullover sweater: cotton blend offers warmth and is great for layering..

White button-down: A fitted one will get the most use, because it's easier to tuck in and looks neater when left out.

Long-sleeve black T-shirt: A surprisingly sophisticated layering piece, this works well under a dress shirt—or even a dress.

Cardigan Sweater: A neutral shade offers the most versatility; a longer style that hits at the hip is the most attractive cut.

Short-sleeve white T-shirt: White tees become unwearable quickly so don't spend a lot of money on one.

Black pants: Get the most out of these pants by selecting a style made of an all-season fabric..

Denim jacket: A darker wash and a slimmer fit look more polished.



To Enhance those Basics in your Wardrobe:

Stock up on sweaters: Sweaters are one of the key elements to building a seasonless wardrobe because of their versatility and the mix-and-match options. For casual wear be sure to have T-Shirts and Sweatshirts.

Choose brights: Select bright colors to keep your wardrobe vibrant no matter what the season. Be sure to identify your best colors before investing.

Include classics: Seasonless dressing works best when your closet is stocked with classics such as the “basics mentioned above as well as blazers and polo shirts, straight and pleated skirts.

Add accessories: Accessories make the mood and create your fashion style. You can add them or change them to complement the season.

Statement Pieces: Based on your personality, be sure to select items that create that “wow” effect!!

For Special effects: don't forget to include a special outfit for that special occasion—you never know when you may need it!

Next Steps:

Now that you know what is needed in to complete a perfect wardrobe what should you do next?

1. Develop a **written itemized list** of your current clothing by making an inventory of the clothing currently in the closet and drawers.

WARDROBE INVENTORY

What I Have:				Season Worn		
Items	Quantity	Colors	Style*	Fall/ Winter	Spring/ Summer	Year Round
Short sleeve T-shirts						
Sleeveless Tank tops						
Long Sleeve T-shirts						
Polo Shirts						
Button up Shirts/Blouses						
Cardigan Sweaters						
Pull-over Sweaters						
Jackets/Blazers						
Jeans						
Pants/Slacks						
Skirts						
Shorts						
Dresses						
Coats						
Active Wear – Sweatshirts						
Leggings						
Tops						
Hoodies						
Accessories (scarves, earrings, necklaces, hats,.....)						
Shoes/Boots						

*Style=tailored/fitted (slim cut), loose (full cut), Pleated, straight, Dressy, Casual.....

2. Identify **gaps** in your current wardrobe using the above information about basics and enhancements and considering your activities. You may have a dress code at school that is reflected in what you have in your closet. (Consider reviewing Activity three in Level 1 to discover how you spend your day/week, to compare what you have with what you need.). Make a list below of what you need/want to complete your wardrobe.
3. Make a wardrobe budget using your available savings and income, and funds available from parents.
4. Prioritize your list of what you need/want to create the perfect wardrobe. What are the most important items? Then determine approximately about how much you will spend on each item. Finally decide when you plan to buy each item based on your budget and the time of year you need the item.

What I Need/Want (Name Item and Describe)	Color	Priority #	Approximately How Much I will Pay for Item	When I will Buy Item

Resources:

Fashion Magic, Wardrobe Planning (University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension)

Kansas 4-H Clothing and Textiles Leader Guide

Wardrobe Basics: Essentials for a Well-Balanced Wardrobe