



Textiles and Clothing —Evaluation Philosophy—

When judging items constructed by the 4-H'er, New York supports this concept found in the 4-H helper/leader and member manuals: ***Many techniques used in sewing are appropriate for this project. There is NOT a 4-H way of construction. Youth need to be able to communicate why an application was used and to understand that other techniques may also be appropriate depending on the fabric, pattern, sewing equipment and intended use of the garment.*** Descriptions of techniques and judging guidance are presented as teaching/judging aides, but are not intended to supersede common sense.

Remember

1. **The person is more important than the product.** The goal is for youth to develop self-confidence through learning. Keep in mind the age, experience, and circumstances of the individual.
2. **The learning process is more important than the product.** Evaluation helps young people learn about fiber/fabric characteristics, construction techniques, color use, design elements, and resource management. Judging should not be a competition among peers but a way to reinforce learning and to suggest directions for improvement.
3. **Be flexible with new, different, or unusual techniques.** The results may not be what was expected, but experimentation is encouraged and a variety of methods may be used to successfully solve a problem. When in doubt about a method, ask yourself, "Why can't it be done this way?" Any method is acceptable if it does not detract from the appearance or durability of this item.
4. **Evaluate actual results (instead of what might have been).** For example, in judging a hand sewn article, evaluate the general effect and quality of work instead of stating that the article should have been made by machine.
5. **Provide specific comments (instead of vague observations).** For example, say, "This facing rolls to the right side of the neckline. Try under stitching and clip seam allowances." Do not say, "This facing is wrong."
6. **Distinguish between choice of technique and quality of workmanship.** For example, if a suitable hemming stitch was carelessly used, say, "This stitch was a good choice, but it shows too much on the right side. Try to pick up fewer yarns from the fabric with your needle."



Textiles and Clothing

—Seams: Quick Definitions—

SEAM - a line of stitching that joins two or more layers of fabric

BOUND - the raw edges of a plain seam are enclosed in a strip of fabric, lace or binding (such as bias tape).

CORDED - cording enclosed in a bias strip is sewn into a plain seam.

CURVED - a plain seam that requires slower stitching and shorter stitch length in order to closely follow the curved seam line.

DOUBLE-STITCHED - a plain seam that is reinforced with a second row of stitching placed $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the first row of stitches.

FAGOTED - an open seam joined by a fagoting or other embroidery stitch.

FLAT-FELLED - a strong, sturdy seam made with two rows of stitching on the outside of the garment. A plain seam is sewn with wrong sides together and the allowances are pressed to one side. The lower allowance is trimmed and the upper allowance is turned under and stitched close to the folded edge, enclosing the trimmed allowance.

FRENCH - a plain seam is sewn with wrong sides together then turned, pressed, and stitched again so that no raw edges are exposed.

LAPPED - one seam allowance is lapped over the other, stitched, and trimmed to create a flat seam without bulk.

MOCK-FRENCH - a plain seam is sewn with right sides together. Edges of both seam allowances are turned under and stitched together.

PLAIN - a basic seam sewn with right sides together, a 5/8-inch seam allowance, and stitching of 9-12 stitches per inch. Most other seams start with a plain seam.

SELF-BOUND - a plain seam in which one seam allowance is trimmed and then enclosed by the other seam allowance.

SERGED - a plain seam that is stitched, trimmed and finished in one step.

TOPSTITCHED - a plain seam that has been pressed to one side and then stitched close to the seam line through all thicknesses.

WELT - a plain seam whose allowances are pressed to one side. The lower seam allowance is trimmed and covered by the upper seam allowance. The upper allowance and the garment are stitched through close to the trimmed edge.



Textiles and Clothing

—Seams: Judging Guidance—

SEAM - a line of stitching that joins two or more layers of fabric

To evaluate quality of workmanship and appropriateness of seam choice, consider the criteria listed below. For additional information, see *Seams: Quick Definitions* and *Seams: Types, Techniques, and Tips*.

- **Thread color matches fabric***
- **Thread weight appropriate for fabric:**
 - Size 50 cotton thread for light and medium weight **WOVEN CELLULOSIC** (cotton, linen, and rayon) fabrics.
 - Size 50 cotton wrapped polyester core thread for all **KNITS** and **WOVENS**.
 - Size 50 polyester thread for **KNIT, STRETCH, and WOVEN SYNTHETIC** fabrics.
 - Size A nylon thread for light and medium weigh **SYNTHETICS**.
 - Size A silk thread for all **SILKS** and **WOOLS**. Also for tailoring and **KNITS**.
 - Size 40 cotton, cotton-wrapped polyester, and polyester thread for heavy materials such as vinyl and upholstery fabrics.
- **Stitch tension balanced**
- **Suitable stitch length**
 - 10-15 stitches/inch for lightweight fabrics.
 - 10-12 stitches/inch for medium weight fabrics.
 - 8-12 stitches/inch for heavy weight fabrics.
- **Seam allowances are uniform in width**
- **Flat and smooth** (no puckers)
- **Ends secured and threads clipped**
- **Properly finished** (see seam finishes)
- **Pressed**

*Serging thread may NOT always be the exact color as the fabric because of the cone size and expense of serging thread.



Textiles and Clothing

—Construction Technique Tips—

When judging items constructed by the 4-H'er, New York supports this concept found in the 4-H helper/leader and member manuals: ***Many techniques used in sewing are appropriate for this project. There is NOT a 4-H way of construction. Youth need to be able to communicate why an application was used and to understand that other techniques may also be appropriate depending on the fabric, pattern, sewing equipment and intended use of the garment.*** Descriptions of techniques and judging guidance are presented as teaching/judging aides, but are not intended to supersede common sense.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

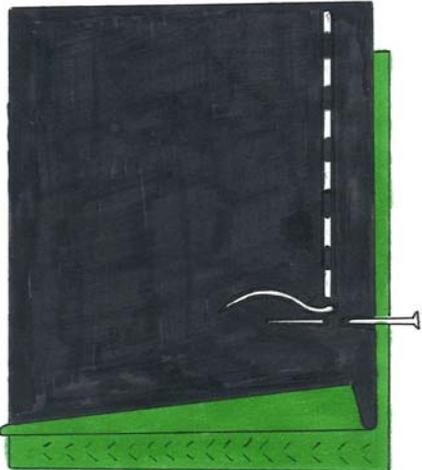
1. Notions should match the fabric *most of the time*. Judges may allow the use of contrasting thread, zippers, buttons etc. for creative designs or for economic reasons. For example, some youth may not have transportation or money to purchase notions and must use what is at hand. It is common practice to purchase a limited number of serging thread colors due to the size and cost of the cones.
2. Seam and hem finishes need to be more durable for clothing that gets much wear than for garments that receive little wear. For example, sports clothing receives harsher wear and care than a party dress.
3. Fleece does NOT ravel and so does NOT require a finish, although seam grading or sewn finishes may be used to reduce bulk or to create a pleasing appearance.
4. Ripstop nylon ravel so the edges MUST be finished. An easy way is to use a hot cutter to cut and seal the edges at the same time. In addition to searing (sealing the edges with heat), plain seams with stitched edges, flat-fell seams, and French seams are used.
5. Pinked seams are NOT RECOMMENDED as a seam finish. Pinking does not effectively prevent raveling with multiple washings and requires the purchase of pinking shears.
6. Selvages are NOT RECOMMENDED as a seam finish because they may pucker. If youth retain the selvege, they should minimize puckering by preshrinking the fabric and clipping seam edges.
7. Interfacing is used to reduce strain on fashion fabrics and to provide integrity for some design elements. Details that are to stand up or out will need more support than flatter, softer details. Interfacing may not be mentioned on pattern guide sheets.
8. Facing edges, seam allowances and hem edges may be treated alike. If one ravel enough to need a finish, the others probably need the same. On really heavy fabrics, you may want to use a lighter weight fabric for facings to reduce the bulk.
9. The hem width is determined by the fabric type, the cut of the garment, and the garment's future use. Generally, circular skirts have very narrow hems (1/4" to 3/4"). Sheer fabrics cut on grain sometimes have wider hems (1 1/2" to 3"). If the member plans to lengthen a skirt or pants before the school year is over, it may have a wider-than-usual hem. If the hem edge puckers when turned and stitched, it may be better to use a different type of edge finish. For hems in bulky, heavy fabrics, you may want to use hem tape for the edge finish or treat it as the seam allowances were treated. Machine-stitched hems are acceptable. That's a fashionable treatment often used in ready-made clothes.
10. Waistline closures (hooks and eyes, buttons and buttonholes) should hold the folded edges of the placket or zipper folded edges in place.
11. A hook and eye closure is needed at the neckline at the top of a zipper.
12. Evaluate serger stitching the same way you evaluate machine and hand sewing.



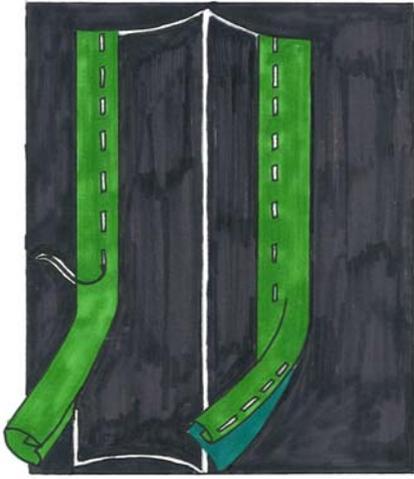
Textiles and Clothing

—Seams: Types, Techniques and Tips—

SEAM - a line of stitching that joins two or more layers of fabric

TYPE	TECHNIQUE	TIPS
<p>Plain</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Place right sides together. 2. Use a 5/8" seam allowance unless the pattern guide sheet instructs otherwise. 3. Stitch along length. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Most seams start with a plain seam. -Plain seams are used on all types of fabrics except sheer fabrics and items intended for heavy use.
<p>Serged</p> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Place right sides together. 2. Serge and trim along edges (machine trims it). <p>*serging thread may NOT always be the exact color as the fabric because of the size and expense of serging thread.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -When a fabric ravel easily, a good way to finish the seam is by serging it. -Serging is also used on stretch woven or knit fabrics, and is often seen in casual wear.

Bound



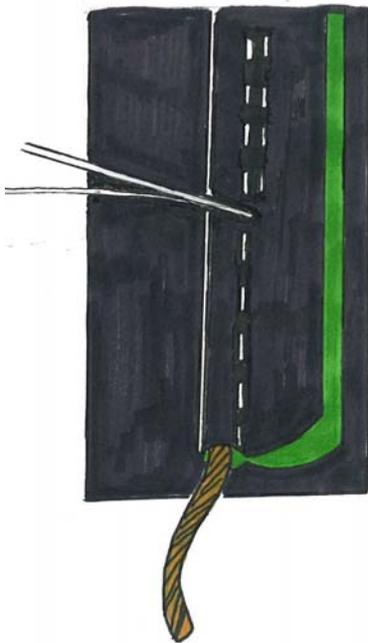
1. Sew a plain seam
2. Pin bias binding along the plain seam stitching, with the fold of the binding matching the previous stitching. This is done on the outer part of the garment
3. Machine stitch through pinned area.
4. Fold bias binding to the inside of garment, and slipstitch along the other folded edge.

-Bound seams are usually visible, and used for decorative effect.

-The fabric used for binding needs to be very flexible to be able to be sewn around curves without puckering.

-Bias binding is usually 1.5" wide, with two folds on each .5" mark.

Corded



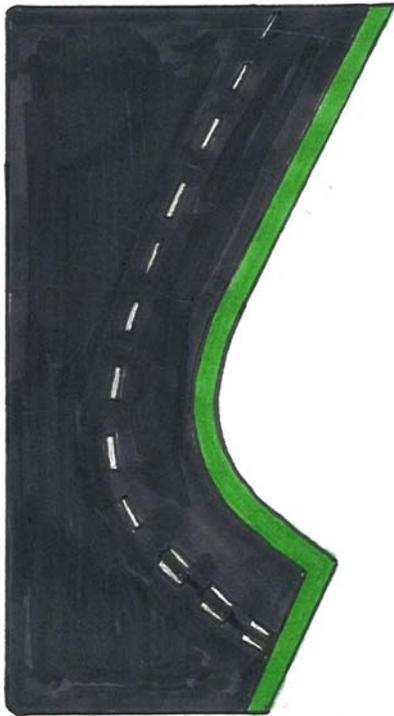
1. Pin or baste cording to right side of one seam allowance, aligning cording stitch line with seam line. The raw edge of cording must face the raw edge of the seam.
2. Stitch closely to the left of the cording stitches.
3. Place seam allowances with right sides together and cording in between. Stitch through.
4. Press, trim and grade as necessary.

-Corded seams add a decorative effect.

-It can be used on any type of fabric, except fabrics that are too sheer.

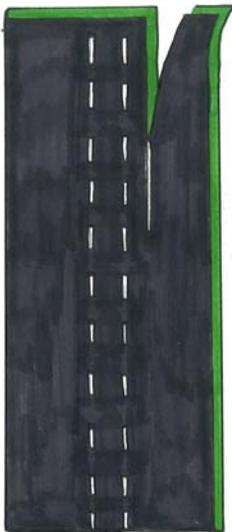
-One can buy covered cording or make one's own.

Curved



1. Pin two curved pieces together.
2. Stitch on the seam allowance line, going slowly and slowly turning the fabric to follow the curve.
3. Notch (cut triangles into) the seam allowances, cutting straight to the stitching.
4. Press seam open.

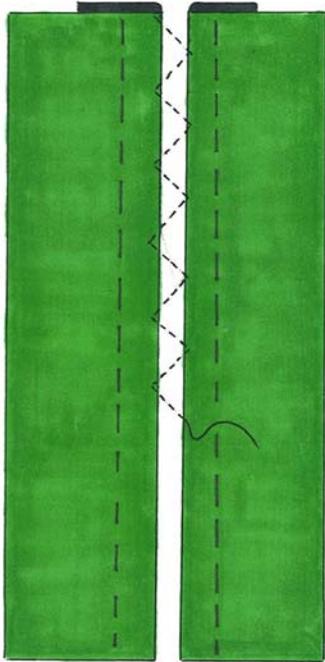
Double-stitched



1. Stitch a plain seam with straight stitch.
2. Machine-stitch a second row 1/8" in from the first, using a straight stitch, a zigzag, or a blind stitch.
3. Trim seam allowances close to the stitching.
4. Press seam to one side.

-Especially good for knits, where edges tend to curl.

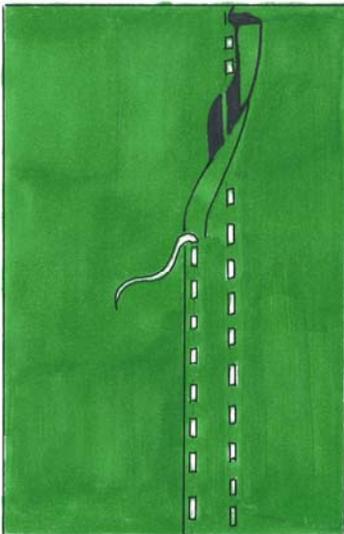
Fagoted



1. Make a test stitch to determine width of opening.
2. Divide width in half; fold each seam line back by this halved amount.
3. On paper, draw parallel lines to represent width between folded edges.
4. Pin folded fabric to paper along parallel lines.
5. Baste
6. Stitch, centering opening under foot and making sure that each edge is caught in stitching.

-Used as a decorative effect, usually in summer clothing.

Flat-felled

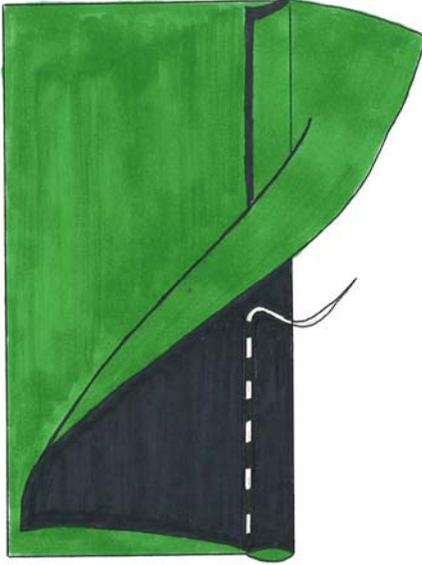


1. With wrong sides of fabric together, stitch on the seam line.
2. Press seam open, then to one side.
3. Trim the inner seam allowance to $\frac{1}{8}$ ". Press under the edge of outer seam allowance $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
4. Stitch this folded edge to the garment.
5. Be careful to press like seams in the same direction.

-A very sturdy seam, usually used for sports clothing and children's wear.

-Because it is formed on the right side, it is also decorative.

French



1. With wrong sides of fabric together, stitch 3/8" from the edge. Trim seam allowances to 1/8".

2. Press seam open.

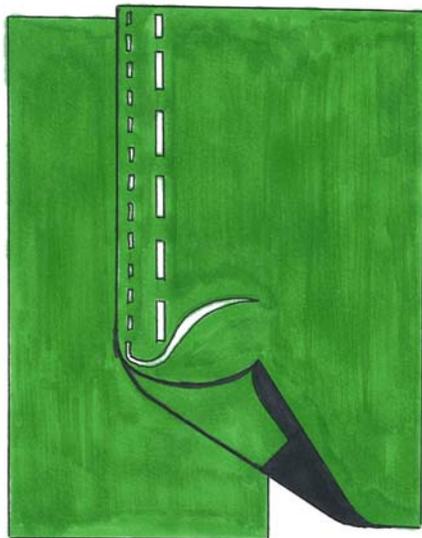
3. Fold right sides together, with stitched line exactly on edge of fold, and press again.

4. Stitch on the seam line, which is now 1/4" from the fold.

5. Press seam to one side.

-This classic seam works well for sheers, and looks best if the finished width is 1/4" or less.

Lapped



1. Mark seam lines

2. Lap one edge over the other with seam lines meeting in the center.

3. Place a row of straight stitching on either side of seam line, or stitch with wide zigzag through center.

4. Trim both seam allowances close to stitching.

-Used to eliminate bulk especially on interfacing and interlining.

Mock-French



1. With right sides of fabric together, stitch on the seam line.

2. Trim seam allowance to $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

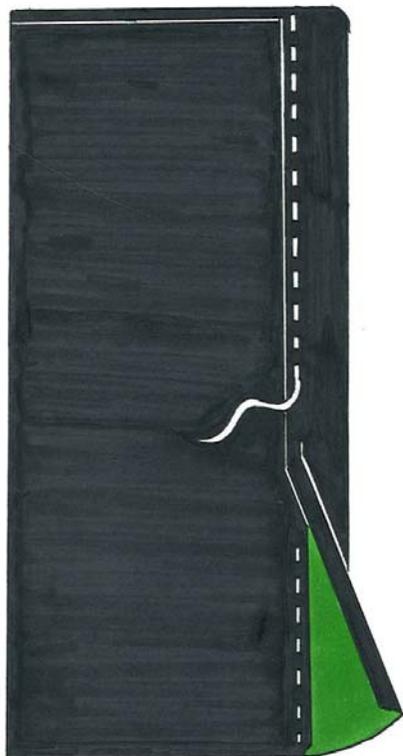
3. Turn in the seam edges $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press, matching folds along the edge.

4. Stitch these folded edges together.

5. Press seam to one side

-Can be used in place of the French seam, especially on curves where a French seam is difficult to execute.

Self-bound



1. Stitch a plain seam.

2. Trim one seam allowance to $\frac{1}{8}$ ".

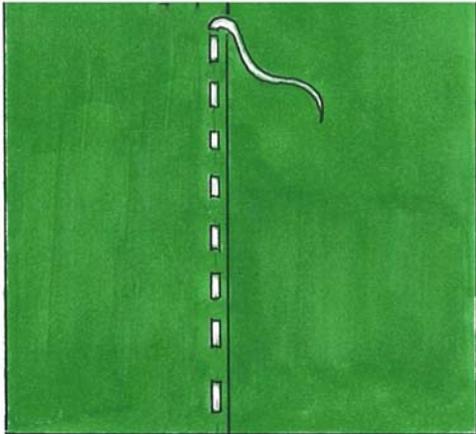
3. Turn under the edge of the other seam allowance $\frac{1}{8}$ " and press.

4. Turn and press again, bringing the folded edge to the seam line, so that the trimmed edge is now enclosed.

5. Stitch close to fold, as near as possible to first line of stitching.

-Works best on lightweight fabrics that do not fray easily.

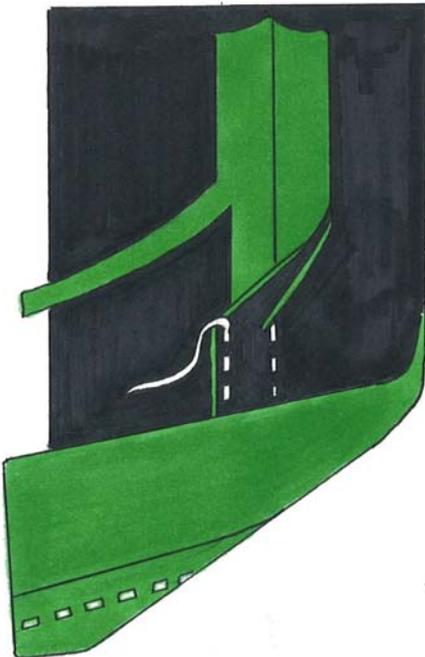
Topstitched



1. Stitch a plain seam
2. Press seam allowances to one side.
3. Stitch through all thicknesses, parallel to the seam line.

-It is a good way to emphasize a construction detail, to hold seam allowances flat, or to add interest to plain fabric.

Welt



1. Stitch a plain seam.
2. Press both seam allowances to one side.
3. Trim inside seam allowance to $\frac{1}{4}$ ".
4. Topstitch, catching wider seam allowance.



Textiles and Clothing —Sewing Levels—

TECHNIQUES FOR CLOTHING AND OTHER ITEMS

Level 1 (Beginner)		Level 2 (Intermediate)		Level 3 (Advanced)
Level 1A	Level 1B	Level 2A	Level 2B	Level 3
Sewing tools names/uses				
Sewing terms definitions				
Woven or fleece fabrics Correct grainline	Knitted fabrics	Napped or sheer fabrics	Simple plaids/stripes Bias cuts	Specialty fabrics Complex plaids
Straight plain seams Double-stitched seams	Curved plain seams Serged seams Welt seams	French seams Lapped seams Mock-French seams Topstitched seams	Flat-felled seams Self-bound seams Corded seams	Bound seams Faggoted seam
Trim seams	Grade seams Stitched seam finishes		Piping	
Staystitching	Facing Sew on ribbing	Interfacing	Lining	Tailoring
Hems - hand-stitched or machine-stitched	Darts	Waistband	Collars Straps	
	Raglan or kimono sleeves	Set-in sleeves	Sleeves with plackets/cuffs	
Elastic casing	Gathering	Ruffles	Pleats/tucks	
		Patch pocket Appliques/Trims	In-seam pocket	Welt pockets
Sew on buttons	Hook & eye closures	Zippers	Snap closures	
		Machine buttonholes	Belt/belt loops	Bound buttonholes
Handsewing (basting, hem stitches)				

New York State Fair
TEXTILES AND CLOTHING
CONSTRUCTION -- Beginner

	*1	*2	*3	COMMENTS
GENERAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ EIS Statement includes name/source of patter, fiber content when available and care of clothing item. ❖ Description included of skills learned/mastered ❖ Appropriate for age/years in project 				
FABRIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Appropriate for patter ❖ Suitable for intended use ❖ Designs well placed (plaid, stripes, etc) 				
APPEARANCE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Neat, clean ❖ Well pressed ❖ Thread color is suitable 				
SEAMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Even width i.e. 5/8 inch ❖ Suitable finish ❖ Seams pressed open ❖ Threads clipped ❖ Graded and clipped where needed 				
MACHINE STITCHED/SERGER: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Straight, even ❖ Tension balanced ❖ Suitable stitch length ❖ Topstitching: appropriate effect 				
HEMS/HAND STICHING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hems even width ❖ Appropriate stitch, length ❖ Stitches evenly placed ❖ Suitable finish ❖ Fullness evenly placed ❖ Single thread used) 				
WAISTBAND/WAISTLINE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tab properly finished ❖ Even width ❖ Casing – even width/evenly stitched ❖ Elastic correct width, flat, secured at seams 				

✓ Means: *1= well done; *2=good; *3= could improve

General Comments:

New York State Fair
TEXTILES AND CLOTHING
CONSTRUCTION – intermediate/advanced

	*1	*2	*3	COMMENTS
GENERAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ EIS Statement includes name/source of patter, fiber content when available and care of clothing item. ❖ Description included of skills learned/mastered ❖ Appropriate for age/years in project 				
FABRIC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Appropriate for pattern ❖ Suitable for intended use ❖ Designs well placed (plaid, stripes, etc) 				
APPEARANCE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Neat, clean ❖ Well pressed ❖ Thread color is suitable 				
SEAMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Even width i.e. 5/8 inch ❖ Suitable finish ❖ Seams pressed open ❖ Threads clipped ❖ Graded and clipped where needed 				
MACHINE STITCHED/SERGER: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Straight, even ❖ Tension balanced ❖ Suitable stitch length ❖ Topstitching: appropriate effect 				
HEMS/HAND STICHING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Hems even width ❖ Appropriate stitch, length ❖ Stitches evenly placed ❖ Suitable finish ❖ Fullness evenly placed ❖ Single thread used 				
WAISTBAND/WAISTLINE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Tab properly finished ❖ Even width ❖ Casing – even width/evenly stitched ❖ Elastic correct width, flat, secured at seams 				
FASTENER (BUTTONS, SNAPS, ETC): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Position even ❖ Suitable size and shape ❖ Design/color appropriate for garment ❖ Securely attached 				
GATHERS & RUFFLES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Evenly distributed ❖ Stitching does not form pleats PLEATS & TUCKS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Straight even folds 				

✓ Means: *1= well done; *2=good; *3= could improve

	*1	*2	*3	COMMENTS
FACINGS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Seams graded and clipped ❖ Understitched ❖ Adequately finished ❖ Do not show on right side 				
INTERFACING, INTERLINING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Correct weight ❖ Correctly placed 				
BELT, BELT LOOPS, STRAPS, TIES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Even width ❖ Crisp points 				
SLACK, SHORTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Crotch seam reinforced ❖ Crotch seam trimmed ❖ Crotch seams matched 				
POCKET, POCKET FLAP: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Neat curves, corners ❖ Patch pockets reinforced at corners ❖ Inseam pockets 				
ZIPPERS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Zipper position ❖ Stitching straight, even ❖ Teeth covered unless part of design ❖ Placket flat, smooth, does not gap ❖ Appropriate color, weight, length BUTTONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Position even/shank if needed ❖ Suitable size and shape BUTTONHOLES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Position even ❖ Stitching neat, even and correct length FASTENERS (hooks, snaps, Velcro): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Suitable size and type ❖ Correct position ❖ Neatly securely stitched 				
DARTS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Taper gradually/do not pouch ❖ Pressed toward center or down(s) ❖ Even length and width 				
COLLAR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Crisp points/neat curves ❖ Undercollar does not show ❖ Collar roll and lapel roll match 				
SLEEVES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Eased in place without puckers ❖ Underarm seam reinforced and trimmed 				
KNIT FABRICS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Correct stitch ❖ Shoulder seams stabilized 				

✓ Means: *1= well done; *2=good; *3= could improve

Evaluator's Name: _____