

# History Repeats Itself

## Abstract

The History Repeats Itself project asks students to connect modern fashion styles, fads, and trends from late 20th Century to current fashions (1980s-now) to past historic styles. For this project, students are asked to pick modern trends, silhouettes, styles in modern pop culture images and connect those garments and/or accessories to earlier style key identifiers throughout costume history. The students then present their findings in a short paper and visual presentation. The learning outcome for this project is to help students draw connections between modern styles and the clothing of the past. Through tying modern garments to the past, the students will understand the cyclical nature of fashion.

## Activity Objectives

### 1) Correct research and terminology

The students are expected to demonstrate that they have learned effective research techniques. The project requires the students to research modern styles and connect it to historical styles. Students should also employ terms introduced during lectures for the historical garments being discussed. For example, in the examples below, the researcher is careful to call the slouchy hat “phrygian bonnet” when it is in an ancient Roman context, and “bonnet rouge” when it is in a French Revolutionary context.

### 2) Clearly explained connections

Students must be able to clearly explain the similarities between the modern items and the historical clothing items. Then, they need to go one step further and present a hypothesis as to why that connection exists. The depth of the students’ learning is measurable by how deeply they explored the “why” of the connection. A student who simply identifies that a historical garment looks similar to a modern garment without theorizing as to why that is has only done half the work.

### 3) Presentation

Assemble and cite images that illustrate both the contemporary and the past fashion items. The student will present them in a professional and meaningful way using a digital format such as Powerpoint, Google Slides, Adobe Spark, or a simple .pdf.

## Activity Goals

A goal for this project is for students to realize that fashion trends are cyclical and that historical clothing can be used as inspiration and reference for modern dress. This is helpful for them to remember when costuming a show if they want a character to subtly reference a historical era or stereotype.

## What you will do:

Identify ten modern fashions, fads, silhouettes, clothing items from the years of 1980-today that can be connected to garments/accessories, etc. found in earlier style trends throughout history.





What you will turn in:

-Images of your ten (10) contemporary fashion, fad, item of clothing, or style and their past counterparts. These should be arranged in an interesting digital format.

-Citations of where your visuals were located.

-A paper describing each fashion, fad, item of clothing, or style from now and the corresponding fashion, fad, item of clothing, style from the past. In your own words, describe both the contemporary items and the historical items. Using your thoughts, why do you think that this style repeated? Do you think that there a connection between the present and the past? What do you think that connection is and why is it meaningful?

**Excerpt: Student Example**

 <p>Beanie</p>	<p><b>Beanies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The modern day "Beanie" gets its shape from the British Bobble Hat circa 1960's-70's</li><li>• 1789-1799 during the French Revolution the bonnet rouge was utilized by revolutionaries</li><li>• Prior to 17<sup>th</sup> century hats in the beanie style were Nálebinded which translated means "needle-binded" this technique predates knitting or crocheting (and dates all the way back to Egyptian times)</li><li>• 10<sup>th</sup> century Vikings often wore caps in similar style to the bonnet rouge</li><li>• The bonnet style dates all the way back to 500BCE with the Phrygian Bonnet which was worn by the Grecians and Romans</li></ul>	 <p>English Bobble Hat</p>
 <p>Phrygian Bonnet</p>		 <p>Bonnet Rouge</p>

**Time Required**

Students are encouraged to work on the project through the course of the semester. All work is done outside of class and is due with the Final Exam. As we discuss the various periods this semester, you will hopefully find connections as we go. Take notes of these connections. It will be much easier to complete this project a little bit at a time rather than all at once at the end of the class sessions.

**Evaluation**

The project was worth 100 points of the student's overall grade (300pts).

Visuals (50 pts)

- Images are clear and of a high quality. (10pts)
- Photos represent 10 current styles connected to 10 styles of the past. (10pts)
- Is correct terminology used? (10pts)
- Images are presented professionally and meaningfully? (10pts)
- A synopsis of the connections between the items (10pts)

Paper (50 pts)

The paper must provide:

- A brief history of the style? (10pts)
- Detailed descriptions of both the current and past styles (10pts)
- Historical connections linking the garments to other periods in costume history (10pts)
- Correct terminology for all garments and eras (10pts)
- A works cited page of reputable sources (10pts)
- Context and hypotheses for the historical connections (10pts)