FASHION TERMINOLOGY

LEARNING TO SKETCH
**BASIC FASHION TERMINOLOGY**

**Style:** a particular design, shape, or type of apparel item  
- defined by the distinct features that create its overall appearance  
- Example: a-line skirts, Bermuda shorts, or Western shirts

**Fashion:** the prevailing type of clothing that is favored by a large segment of the public at any given time  
- *Styles come & go, fashion is always here in some form.*

**Fad:** temporary, passing fashion. Around only for a short period of time

**Classic:** item of clothing that continues to be popular even though fashions change  
- Example: the little black dress

**Apparel:** refers to any men’s, women’s, or children’s clothing

**Garment:** a particular article of apparel  
- Example: a dress, suit, coat, or sweater
**BASIC SKETCHING TERMINOLOGY**

**Silhouette:** the shape of a clothing style. Formed by the width and length of the neckline, sleeves, waistline and pants or skirt

**Croquis:** a rough, preliminary drawing or sketch

**Fit:** refers to how tight or loose a garment is on the person wearing it

**Bodice:** the area above the waist in a garment

**Haute couture:** literally means “finest dressmaking” in French. Refers to the high fashion industry or “fashion houses” with a designer who creates original, individually designed fashions

**Ready-to-wear garments:** garments that are mass produced in factories

**CAD:** Computer Aided Drafting
BODY SHAPES

Tall & Thin:
• Almost all fabrics can be worn well by people with this build
• Should avoid wearing tight, straight dresses, skirts or pants

Tall & Heavy:
• Tend to look their best in garments with simple lines and little decoration
• Should avoid loud prints, checks, plaids and stripes

Short & Thin:
• Look best in soft, fluid, lightweight fabrics
• Should avoid bulky textures, large prints and plaids, large pockets, collars and cuffs

Short & Heavy:
• Best in garments providing the illusion of height. Vertical lines
• Should avoid two-piece or two-colored garments

Large Upper Body:
• Dark, dull plain fabrics in simple, slim tailored tops
• Should avoid wearing clingy, shiny fabrics or large, bright prints on top

Large Lower Body:
• Garments including vertical lines pointing towards neckline as well as wide shoulder lines.
• Should avoid tight-fitting pants or skirts, especially those with patch pockets, as well as shirts that end at the hipline
FACE SHAPES

Oval: slightly narrow at the jaw line and temples

Rectangular: Long and slender. Forehead and area below cheekbones are the same width.

Round: This face shape is fuller with a found hairline.

Square: If you have a strong jaw line as well as a strong hairline

Heart: wider and the forehead and temples with a narrow and delicate chin.

Triangular: broader chin and a narrow forehead.