

## Outline

- I. Introduction
- II. Thesis: But over the past fifty years, the most straightforward way of expressing a part of oneself in a relaxed manner is through the wearing of T-shirts.
- III. History of the T-shirt
- IV. Personal affiliation of wearer with sports, music, or other groups
- V. T- shirts as big business
- VI. Personal expressions on T-shirts
- VII. Controversial T-shirts
- VIII. T-shirts as memorials
- IX. Thesis restated: Whether to suggest an affiliation with a group, show individuality in the expression of oneself, convey an idea to the general public or just for the simple, clean-cut look of the plain model, T-shirts, along with blue jeans, have been the common uniform of people of all ages over the past fifty years.
- X. Conclusion

Go paragraph 1st paragraph



Many Student

~~Carota~~ Carota

English 12 Period 2

16 March 2017

2-3 1/2 paragraphs / page  
normal

Peters 3

## Telling With T's

\* see Owl Purdue website  
website for  
proper  
format

should be 1 paragraph

People generally try to express themselves through their appearance. Some go for the striking or even shocking approach by trying to make themselves look different by wearing facial jewelry, getting tattoos, or by other eye-catching features. Others enjoy showing class or taste by wearing expensive clothing labels. But over the past fifty years, the most straightforward way of expressing a part of oneself in a relaxed manner is through the wearing of T-shirts.

\* not  
a strong  
thesis -  
see conclusion

history and  
tradition  
of T-shirt  
but better  
to include  
in intro

T-shirts originated from the practical, nautical use of the male undergarment. The sleeveless undershirt, worn by English sailors, was ordered to be replaced by the T-shirt to protect royal eyes from unsightly underarms (Reed 97). After World War II, the comfortable, relaxed style of T-shirts came off the ships with the American sailors (Jones 14). James Dean and Marlon Brando set the simple, clean-cut look of the fifties in their plain, white T-shirts with a pack of cigarettes rolled up in the sleeve (Reed 98). T-shirts then went from merely a style to a means of expression as print was applied to them.

add transition

however

better to  
include in  
intro

incorporate similar thesis statement  
good from  
conclusion

transition

sentence but  
before thesis  
statement,

shows T-shirt's  
affiliation  
w/ music  
and sports

People crave affiliation with a certain group, team, or idea (Jones 14). It makes one feel involved and gives one an identity. What better way is there to show this than to wear a T-shirt expressing this affiliation? Many people like to show support of a particular musical performer or group. It's very common now to see bands, singers, or musicians on the shirts of people who want to show that they listen to and enjoy a certain musical group. A band like The Rolling Stones can earn up to \$25 million in T-shirt sales, more than 50 percent of their total profit (McGraw 65). Sports teams also make a



bundle in the stadiums as fans stream from the bleachers to get their favorite team's T-shirt to show support and enthusiasm.

*T-shirt and personal expression* In talking to Andrew Ferrari, the owner of a local custom T-shirt screen printing shop in Sea Cliff, I found out about the more personal expression of T-shirts. Aside from the large portion of commercial business they receive, often people order single T-shirts with a saying that person is popular for or some symbol of his or her character. Having been in the business for over 20 years, Mr. Ferrari said that T-shirts have somewhat replaced the picket sign in all kinds of protests and political campaigns as people wear their stances, opinions, and personal feelings (Ferrari; Jones 14). *interesting 2 sources* The oldest printed T-shirt, kept in the Smithsonian, says "Dew it With Dewey" from the 1948 presidential campaign against Harry Truman (Reed 99).

*T-shirts and controversy* Lately there has been a degree of controversy with certain types of T-shirts. Aside from the banning of Bart Simpson shirts in most elementary schools everywhere ("Eat" 130), several T-shirts worn by teenagers have been described as brutal, degrading to women, vulgar, and racist, with phrases such as "Back Da F\_ ck Up" and "Throw Ya Guns in the Air" (Cose 61). *use first significant word - not "a" or "the"* Richard Majors, a psychologist at the University of

Wisconsin, explains the belligerent shirts as a notification of "the anger, the apathy, the despair that many young black men feel" (Cose 61). *note quotations/period* Put another way, T-shirt vendor

Andy Wilson explains these shirts as "a reflection of society, of the world these kids live in" (Cose 61). *note quotations/period* Most people find these shirts offensive, especially those who have lost a loved one to violence. *good transition sentence*

Some people have discovered a new way to cope with the death of someone close to them caused by violence. This is by wearing a T-shirt in tribute to that person. There

are several varieties of this type of shirt, most of them including a picture of the deceased and some memorable words honoring them. The shirts are used as a personal way of dealing with grief and as a sign of respect to the person lost. Corinne Toms, who lost her son to a drive-by shooting, explains that the shirts "help ease her grief and serve as a warning to all [who pass] that the price of street violence is often paid by children" (Yant 61). So these shirts serve a dual purpose by showing their remembrance of the dead and by conveying a message to help bring change.

\*  
restate  
thesis  
(This  
is actually  
stronger  
than in  
intro)

→ Whether to suggest an affiliation with a group, show individuality in the expression of oneself, convey an idea to the general public or just for the simple, clean-cut look of the plain model, ~~T-shirts~~ <sup>body paragraph 1</sup> along with blue jeans, <sup>body paragraph 2</sup> have been the common uniform of people of all ages over the past fifty years. They're the most relaxed looking and comfortable article of clothing (Beller 35). And unlike butterfly collars and bellbottoms, "the plain ol' cotton T transcends trendiness" (Jones 61). T-shirts are a fadless style that will be with us for years to come.

T-shirts



Double spaced  
at least / indent  
Follow model!

Works Cited

- Beller, Thomas. "The Problem with T-shirts." *New Yorker* 03 May 1993: 35.
- Cose, Ellis. "Brutality as a Teen Fashion." *Newsweek* 23 Aug. 1993: 61.
- "Eat My Shirts!: Pesky Bart Simpson Tees Off a California Principal--and Gets Kicked out of School for Swearing." *People Weekly* 21 May 1990: 130.
- Ferrari, Andrew. Personal interview. 10 Oct. 1997.
- Jones, Marian A. "The Model T." *Psychology Today* Mar./Apr. 1997: 14.
- InfoTrac TOM*. CD-ROM. Information Access. Sept. 1999.
- McGraw, Dan. "Dressing Down for Dollars." *U. S. News & World Report* 13 May 1996: 64-65.
- Reed, J. D. "Hail to the T, the Shirt That Speaks Volumes." *Smithsonian*. Apr. 1992: 96-102.
- Yant, Monica. "Friends, Families Memorialize Dead Ones on T-shirts." *Knight-Rider / Tribune News Service* 10 June 1997: 61. *Infotrac TOM*. CD-ROM. Information Access. Sept. 1999.

use periodicals, websites, magazines → up to date info