



# 4-H Fabrics & Fashions

## Consumer Education

*Intermediate Level (12-14 Years)*

### Shopping for a Winter Coat

A coat will cost a lot of money and you will wear it for a long time. Before you buy a coat, ask yourself the following questions:

- What kind of coat do I need?
- What kind will look best with my other clothes?
- Where will I wear it?
- How often will I wear it?
- How much money do I have to spend?

#### **Cost per wear**

If you wear a \$100 coat six times a week for six months over a three year period, it will cost you about 22 cents per wearing. On the other hand, if you pay \$60 for a special occasion coat, which you wear twice a year for three years, it costs you almost \$10 per evening. Before you shop for a coat, take a look at the cost per wearing. Can you afford to spend that much?

Using a catalog, choose three coats that might work with your wardrobe. Figure the cost per wearing for each of the coats.

	<i>Dress Coat</i>	<i>School Coat</i>	<i>Raincoat</i>
Cost of coat			
Number of years' wear			
Number of times worn per year			
Cost per wearing			

A well-made coat keeps its good appearance and shape after long wear and many cleanings. Look for these signs of good quality:

<i>Inside</i>	<i>Outside</i>
Seam allowances and hem width are generous. Matching thread is used. Lining is firm and smooth. Interfacing gives shape to coat. Lining is well fitted to coat. Lining is tacked securely so it won't slip.	Fabric is springy. Seams are evenly stitched. Pocket corners and buttonholes are well-constructed. Buttons are smooth, easy-to-use, and securely fastened. Coat front closes and hangs smoothly. Hem is even and smooth.