



Caitin & Grace - Moving from fast to sustainable fashion

This case study was transcribed from interviews. These are Caitlin and Grace's words and opinions.

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

Caitlin - I wanted to inform the public and even my school and community about fast fashion and what effects it can have because it is usually overlooked and not really known about, and how having a sustainable wardrobe can make a difference.

Grace - Because this is my first year in the YEC I wanted to raise awareness about sustainable fashion and how we can prevent fast fashion and how we can be sustainable but still get the latest clothing and stuff.

As a pair we decided that it would have been best to share about our topic in our community rather

than our school, as we are already doing some other stuff in our school at the moment and we created flyers, posters and an Instagram account. We delivered the flyers containing information and tips and tricks to all of these houses. On the Instagram page we share stuff and encourage others to share what they've done and share their progress.

I think the biggest result or success is the Instagram account because we've gained a few followers and quite a following. We find that by following other groups that do things similar to us, they then follow us back so it's like a joint effort. By supporting others, they support us back. Some of them are Australian groups but most of them just talk about the issue itself.

Did you face any challenges?

Grace - We wanted to go around and do thrift shopping together and show what we could do but because for half of the year they weren't open, we had to work our way around it by creating the flyer. Then we got together with the art teacher, who's a graphic designer, and we got some help and made our flyers more interesting to look at.

Another challenge was getting the idea off the ground and actually taking some action, rather than just having it as a thought.

Caitlin - I think that the biggest challenge this year was obviously COVID because we weren't able to do as much as maybe we would have liked. I learned how to work a bit more independently rather than in a humongous group.

What will happen now?

We're hoping to continue because we feel like we haven't done much on the topic. We've made some little coffee cozies - which are some material which you wrap around your travel coffee mug to keep your hands from getting burnt. We were hoping to sell them. They are made out of scrap fabrics, so showing that material can be reused and it doesn't have to be thrown away. We may extend this product this term, and then we can follow up with the Instagram account and keep being active on that.

Your advice to other students?

Caitlin - I know that I was nervous when giving out the flyers but I think that an important piece of advice is just to remember that you are doing good and you're doing the right thing so you shouldn't feel embarrassed to go up to someone and ask, because at the end of the day if they say no they say no. You can still do what you want to do.

What have you enjoyed most?

Grace - I've enjoyed working with my partner and in a way getting to know her more. Also, seeing other people's perspective on the issue and seeing how they approach the issue and how they try and make an impact themselves, even if it's just little things like some real social benefit.

Caitlin - I actually really enjoyed doing this independently, but also with a partner, because therefore we were able to do more in a short span of time. I've also been enjoying the challenge - rather than doing it in a group in my school - because therefore I was able to learn new skills.