

Ashley Sharp
Cool VS. Cruel
Personal Statement

No Fur is a “Safe” Fur

The true challenge in this competition was to study the design elements in fashion photos provided, and find a way to make an original piece while incorporating these details into the finished garment. My entry is a one-piece cotton dress, which serves as a backdrop to a faux crocodile waist cincher. There are three focal points in the silhouette of the dress, which were inspired by various elements of the photo collection, the curve in the neckline, the breakpoint and fullness in the sleeves, and the added fullness along the hemline.

My inspiration was also in many ways original. In my opinion a well-fitted waist cincher is both feminine and timeless, faux crocodile is extremely sought after by consumers, and I have always loved the idea of the "power suit", one that can make a woman feel invincible and completely in charge. This is where I began with my design.

What I have learned through research, as well as conversations with various people is that there is no humane way to acquire these materials. There are so many peaceful alternatives to using animal products in design, and there is no real reason that we can't stomp out this trend entirely. No matter where I end up after graduation I will continue to hold a strong stance against the use of animal fur. I hope to become an assistant designer with a design company, and eventually continue my education to achieve a bachelor's degree in both design and marketing.