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POP REEL 3: FASHION SCHOOL, TAJ MAHAL AND SPOKEN WORD

What is it like to study at a prestigious fashion design school? We meet the students at Parsons, the School of Fashion, and hear what they think about fashion and how they created their pieces.

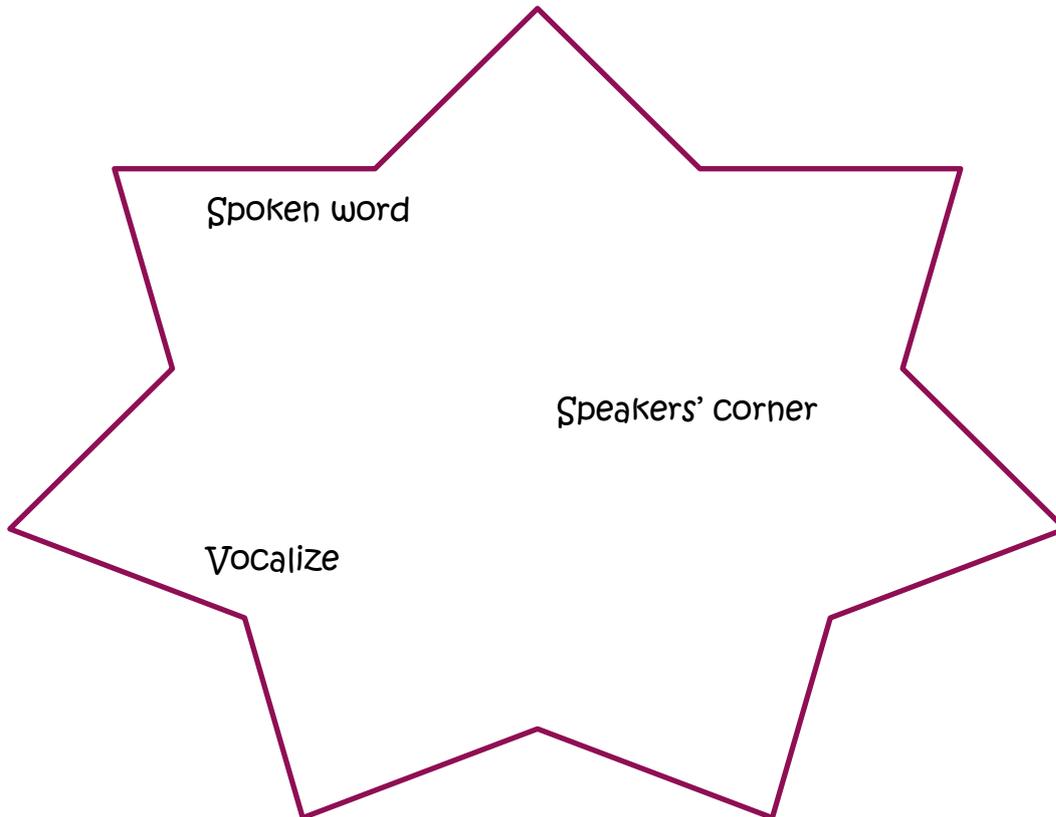
We meet Nirav Modi, an Indian diamond cutter who is inspired by The Taj Mahal, in the city of Agra. The Taj Mahal is widely recognized as one of the most important buildings in India and is admired for its beauty all over the world.

Spoken word artist Suli Breaks from London speaks for and to his generation about education and other important things in life.



A. LISTEN AND WRITE

Below you will find expressions used in the program. In what context are they used and what do they mean, do you think? Try to figure it out while watching the program, then discuss with a friend to see if you got it right.



B DISCUSS IN CLASS

- At Parsons School of Fashion, the students try to figure out what are the latest trends. What would you say is the latest fashion? Do you know? Is it important to know?

Do you think fashion is important? Why/ why not? Who do you think decides what is fashionable and what isn't?

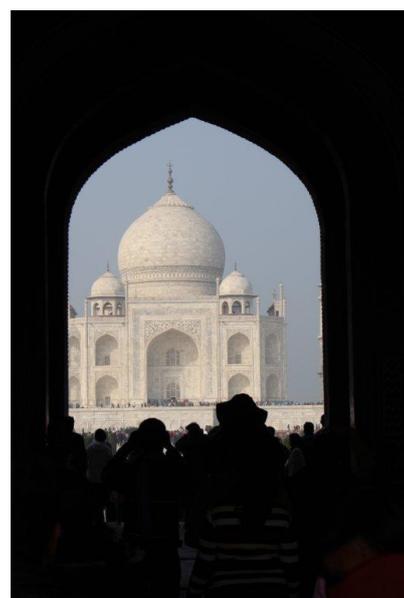
What are the pros and cons of following trends according to you?

Would it be good or bad if fashion didn't exist? Motivate your answer!

Fashion trends usually come back twenty or thirty years later. Why do you think that is?

According to you, what do people usually want to express through their clothes? Why do you think expressing oneself through looks and appearance is important?

- Emperor Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died when she gave birth to their 14th child. Do you think that the idea behind the Taj Mahal is romantic? Why? Why not? If you had lost your beloved and had the power and the money required, what would you do to show your love? Do you think that a similar building could be built today? Why or why not? What could that be if it was? Would it be a palace?
- What is the relationship between words and power, according to spoken word artist Suli Breaks? If you were a poet, what would you write about? Is there anything you would like to change in society? Do you think that poetry can change the world? What do you think of poetry/ spoken word as a form for expressing one's thoughts?





C RESEARCH THE WORD/EXPRESSION

What do these words/expressions mean? Try to see if you can find them on the internet.

❖ Quote: _____

❖ Sketch: _____

❖ Holistic: _____

❖ Drape: _____

❖ Interconnected: _____

❖ Mannequin: _____

❖ Glass blower: _____

❖ Native American: _____

❖ Navajo: _____

❖ Poultry: _____

❖ Brocade: _____

❖ Batik: _____

❖ Architecture: _____

- ❖ Mausoleum: _____

- ❖ Mogul: _____

- ❖ Inlay: _____

- ❖ Craftsman: _____

- ❖ Marble: _____



D EXTRA MATERIAL

- Taj Mahal is on The World Heritage List. Find out what it means and what other buildings are included in the list. Search for more facts about the Taj Mahal.

- Search the Internet for facts and prepare a presentation. Find some good pictures to show in class and present your facts. Choose one of the topics below.
 - Parson's Fashion School
 - A fashion designer
 - Spoken word artist Suli Break

- Write an essay!

What is your opinion about what can be expressed through fashion? Who decides what is fashionable and what isn't? Is it important to follow the latest fashion trends? What happens if you don't follow fashion trends at all? Express your thoughts about fashion and trends in an essay of about one page.

Peer Response

Work in groups of four. Read each other's essays on fashion trends and give feedback. Pay attention to these things when you give feedback:

- What is the structure like? Is there a clear introduction and a conclusion? What could be done to improve structure?
- Are the thoughts clearly expressed? What could be done to make it clearer?
- How is the grammar and spelling? Mark no more than three different mistakes in the text.
- What is really good about this essay? Give positive feedback on three things!

Use the feedback from your peers and rewrite the essay before you hand it in to your teacher.





E RADIO POPREEL LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Listen to Radio Popreel and answer the questions.

1. Where is Michelle Brown from?
 - a) Nebraska
 - b) Alaska
 - c) Native America

2. Why is sustainability important in Brown's design?
 - a) Because the Native Americans recycle material when they produce clothes.
 - b) Because she is allergic to non-organic fabric.
 - c) Because she wants people to be aware of the value of nature.

3. Why did John Max Goh come to New York?
 - a) To study fashion design at Parson's Fashion School.
 - b) To be a teacher at Parson's Fashion School.
 - c) To study English.

4. Professor of Fashion Design Fiona Dieffenbacher says that...
 - a) New York can be seen as an extension of the designer school classroom.
 - b) design is creating new models.
 - c) fashion design is mainly draping.

5. New York as a fashion capital...
 - a) has a lot of designers that are specialized in mixing fabrics.
 - b) offers the possibility to always explore new designs.
 - c) has a lot of designers.

6. Jack Burns from New Mexico likes to be in New York because...
 - a) it is easy to blend in.
 - b) it is easy to meet like-minded people.
 - c) he likes to share experiences with other people.

7. What famous designers have studied at Parson's Fashion School?
 - a) Donna Karen, Marc Jacobs, Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana
 - b) Giorgio Armani, Don O'Neil, Nicola Trussardi
 - c) Valentino, Donna Karen, Alessandro Dell'Acqua

8. Nirav Modi is..
 - a) in the diamond jewellery business
 - b) a diamond cutter
 - c) working at the Taj Mahal

9. How long did it take to build the Taj Mahal?
- a) 40-50 years
 - b) 60-70 years
 - c) 30-40 years
10. What is Suli Break's poetry about?
- a) religion
 - b) everyday life
 - c) education
11. Why does Suli Break say about Youtube?
- a) It's useful when you want to find good music.
 - b) It is a place where you can share funny video clips.
 - c) It is a platform that he can use to reach out to people with his poetry.





Key to listening comprehension Radio Popreel 5

- 1) b
- 2) a
- 3) a
- 4) a
- 5) b
- 6) b
- 7) a
- 8) a
- 9) c
- 10) c
- 11) c