Self Portrait/ Character Analysis Project

Objective: Using the costume design process to create a costume design for a specific character. You!

The purpose of this assignment is to take a person that you are most familiar with (yourself) and determine how your physical characteristics combine with personality traits to make your unique sense of style. By taking on the role of costume designer you will cast a celebrity who has been cast to portray you in the play about your life by “shopping” for their costume.

This project will use the following process common to costume design:

- Character Analysis – What are the defining physical & psychological traits?
- Psychology of dress – How does dress reveal someone’s personality? How do other people perceive you by your dress?
- Physical body analysis – What have you got and how do you hide/flaunt/distort your physical features? What would you need to do to someone else to make them look like you?
- Place/Time - What event are you going to? What activities will you need to do in your clothes? What is appropriate/not appropriate to wear at your activity?
- Casting – Who looks like you? Who shares common personality traits? (Note: In the real world designers have no say in who gets cast, but they often use celebrities or famous people as their character inspiration)
- Shopping – What is the outfit that IS you? Can you buy it online? Is it in a local store? Does it have to be made?

Process:

1. Answer the questions on the attached list. This is for your use; it will not be turned in.
2. Think critically about how these things are a deciding factor in what you wear.
3. Type a description using your responses from points 1 & 2 (½ page to 1 page long)
4. Chose an event or activity that best represents your personality. (Going to a dance club, attending a church service, going to prom, watching TV, working out, etc.)
5. Find or take a photograph of yourself in your personal clothing style
6. Chose a celebrity to portray you
7. Write a paragraph about why you chose them and list how you would have to physically change the actor’s appearance (should be no longer than ½ page)
8. “Shop” the costume. This can be from a magazine, a catalog, online, or a photo taken in a store. It could be a collage of images as well. Think about the entire look, including shoes, hairstyle, and other accessories that you use regularly
9. Organize your work together in a presentation book, portfolio or in clear sheet protectors in a binder

Your presentation binder will consist of a photograph of you, your personal typed description, the event you are dressing for, a photo of the celebrity, a typed description of why you chose that person and how you may need to physically change them, and finally a picture/collage of the costume. All photographs should be good quality and large enough to clearly see the images. This is something to keep in mind when retrieving images off the internet. I will not accept grainy, small resolution images or things from a camera phone. You will be graded on neatness, organization and completeness, but also on your honest appraisal of yourself.
These questions do not need to be turned in. They are meant to guide you in identifying your self and your style and help you analyze why you chose the clothing you wear. However, you may use any of these questions with answers in your description page that is turned in.

**Physical Traits:**
- Age:
- Height:
- Weight:
- Physical Stature (tall, stocky, curvy, etc):
- Ethnicity:
- Ancestry/Cultural heritage:
- Hair color:
- Eye color:
- Complexion color:

**Environmental/Sociological Traits:**
- Place of Birth:
- City currently live in:
- Education level:
- Marital Status:
- Sexual orientation:
- Socio-Economic status (poverty, middle class, etc):
- Home life (Past & Present):
- Religious affiliation or belief system:
- Political affiliation or societal view:

**Critical thinking questions:**
What is your most favorite and least favorite physical trait? Do you hide figure flaws or show off parts of your figure? What are your most and least favorite colors? What fabrics do you like to wear? How do you love to dress? How do you hate to dress? Would you rather dress up to go to a party or dress down to lounge on the couch? Are you introverted or extroverted? Do you have bad habits? Are you physically active? Do you eat healthy? What are your interests and hobbies? What is your favorite book/film/music? Do you use clothing to support a cause or advertise a product? Do you buy things for the labels? Of the traits listed above, which one has the most impact on how you dress? Is there a trait listed that you wouldn’t associate with identifying through clothing? Why?