

Team Name: Hewitt2024
Username: mayatylis
School: The Hewitt School

Favorite Shirt Information:

Brand name: Delta Apparel

Materials used: 100% cotton

Where it was produced: Honduras

Was anyone surprised to hear why you were wearing your shirt inside out?

I was stopped and asked by many people over the course of the day. Everyone found the reason I was wearing my shirt/sweater inside out very interesting and clever as well as they thought it was a great conversation starter.

What were their reactions?

When I shared information about fast fashion I found that almost everyone was fascinated and either asked how they could contribute to preventing the impact, shared what they currently do to prevent the impact, or shared examples and their own information about companies and experiences they have had with/heard about in the fast fashion industry. Also, I was asked questions and even inspired other people to wear their shirts/sweaters inside out and spread the information while raising awareness. Overall, their reactions were incredibly positive and it was an inspiring activity because I was able to share information with people who did not know the full story of the fashion industry but wanted to help change the impact.

What information did you share?

I shared that the fast fashion industry is one of the largest producers of waste and has a huge impact on the environment and climate change. I provided them with statistics from the article starting with the fact that “Every year, the fashion industry uses 93 billion cubic meters of water and half a million tons of plastic microfibers are dumped into the ocean — the equivalent of 50 billion plastic bottles.” I also shared the fact that “Manufacturing polyester ... is energy-intensive and releases nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas that is 300 times more potent than CO₂.” In addition, I shared the fact that “Unicef reports that 170 million children are engaged in child labour, many of whom are in textile production.” I shared these facts because the statistics are staggering and the comparison to the amount of plastic bottles, the potency of CO₂, and amount of children are quantities that many people understand. I talked about and had some deep conversations about how the fast fashion industry affects more than one aspect of life: it creates cheap products that generate waste (as less than 1 percent are recycled), it uses tons of water to

make these products, the packaging for online products produces lots of plastic and waste, the transportation for online products adds to the burning of fossil fuels, toxic dye can be released into and negatively impact local water systems, factory workers are paid an incredibly low amount and are exposed to harsh working environments, many children are part of this industry, and more that are results of the fast fashion industry.

