

Topic 3 Response Paper: Animal Cruelty/ethics and animal testing in the fashion industry

As a consumer in the fashion industry we buy based on what looks nice and never think about the undergo process. Many times these clothings that looks so amazing actually destroyed a life to create the look. Materials like wool, fur and leather have been taken from animals to create our styles. These materials have killed many animals so we can have a sense of style. Majority of the time, many of us are not fully acknowledge on the process of our clothing. We just buy based on what we see. One major influence in buying these clothing is seeing people with high platforms like celebrities to promote the fashion. Celebrities are looked up to as role models so it really increases the chances of harming more animals. They are on a high platform so instead of promoting the destruction, why not create awareness on it?

Animal cruelty is exteremly harsh in general but in the way they use it in the fashion industry takes it to another extent. According to Byfield, M. (2000) in the year of 1999 fur started booming. Fur started to become popular based on the increase of their sales. It started to trend and become the number one thing in fashion. But he also mention celebrities accept the “nature's life-and-death cycle” which means they understand the background of their clothing and accepts the harm behind it. After fur started booming they started to become more creative and use it in designs and graphics. So in the industry it started to be more encouraged to keep using it because it was all based on what people like. Based on this article I wanted to explain the start of the fur booming in the industry. I will like to contrast it to the harm it actually cost.

The materials that are used from animals leave them in torture or dead. In this article YJ, 2018 explained the process of the harm. When they extract the skin from the animals they scrape

everything off. They then hang it out in the refrigerator and later ship it to a facility. Then it goes into a chemical process. This is what helps the animal skin turn into a smooth leather jacket. The fur process is a bit different. YJ, 2018 explains fur farms are mentally and physically abused. In these fur farms they have no rights that can be used to keep them protected. They are in a confined space which destroys their mental health. Once they are ready to get the fur from the animals they either getting killed by “anal electrocution or neck-breaking” so it won’t interfere with destruction with the fur. An example of clothing they used in the article was a mink coat they used about 60 to 80 minks to create just one coat.

Many people will try to contradict the situation and compare it to the way we eat but we eat based on our survival and not based on our looks. There is a big difference on our wants and needs so I think this is what it really is in this situation. Harming the animals to create an unnecessary look when there is options like faux fur or faux leather can give that same sense of style is not needed. They don't have the same benefits but they can give you that look. I'm not saying animals should just die based on our hunger only but I believe this changes the subject to survival. Majority of the world eats meat because that is basically how we all was raised but excessive stuff like the clothes should not take an animal life.

According to Torelli,(2017) many animals are very conscious when they are attacked. About 35 of the same type of animal is killed to just create one jacket. Let’s put it into perspective and think about when it needs to be restocked, many lives would be taken. Just like the fashion industry, many people in the cosmetic make their products through this. They do live testing which can cause painful infections. Top companies like Cover Girl, Maybelline, and L’Oreal has done this procedure to create their products.

Overall before purchasing something you need to educate yourself about it. Many of these items are being purchased because most times they do not know what happen behind the scenes. Fashion can still be fashionable without cow skin or mink fur. Consumers are filled with a lot of different options. So it is not a must to harm the animals for just a sense of style. We can always purchase faux leather or fur. Animal testing tortures these animals and I don't think there is no way you can justified this situation. A life is a life. Animals deserve to live their life just like we do. It is a totally different situation when we eat meat because this is based on survival because this is a need for human body whereas the clothing is just a wanted item that's not actually needed.

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