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Dr. Sutton
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Interview Assignment

For this particular interview, I decided to interview my wife. This was a particularly interesting interview for me since we both grew up in the same time period. However, we didn't grow up in the same area, so it was interesting interviewing her and hearing her perspective on what fashion she surrounded herself with. During the interview with my wife, I asked her questions such as the environment she grew up in, the fashion she saw during that era, her style then and now, and her go-to style during that era. Her answers are as follow:

- I grew up in a few different areas of the Bronx during the 1980's in an urban environment. However, I did notice many similar and typical 80's fashion in these various areas such as (T. Williams, personal communication, Feb 27, 2021):
 - Mini Skirts
 - Colored Lee Jeans
 - Acid Wash Jeans
 - Pleated Pants
 - Shell Toe Adidas and Nike Sneakers
 - Le Tigre Shirts
 - Colorful Shirts/Sweaters
 - Lace Blouses
 - Members Only Jackets

- Shoulder Pads
 - Leather Jackets/Skirts
 - Bomber Jackets
 - Name Earrings, Rings and Plate
 - Moccasins, Jelly Shoes, Penny Loafers, Huaraches Sandals, Keds and High Heeled Shoes
- I grew up in the exploding rap era of the 80s as a teen. Because of my love of 80's rap music, my style reflected some of the popular styles of rap artists, combined with my own personal style. My favorite daily go-to fashion was wearing big hoop earrings, name earrings, flipped hair, miniskirts, tight Lee jeans, high heeled shoes, and my "Shell Toe" Adidas. I loved dressing up and looking feminine, so skirts and big hoop earrings were my favorite. My second favorite look was wearing my name earrings with Lee jeans, colorful tops, jackets, and Adidas, to reflect my love of rap groups, like Run DMC, Salt-n-Pepa, etc. (T. Williams, personal communication, Feb 27, 2021)
 - My style has evolved to match the woman I am today and where I am in my life currently. I am a wife, mother and professional, so my fashion decisions reflect my day, mood and setting. I still love to look feminine, so I still wear my big hoops, tight jeans and high heel shoes, as they are favorites and because they never go out of style. I also still love, but retired, my name earrings and miniskirts but love the memories I have wearing them. One year for Mother's Day, my family surprised me with a pair of "throwback" Shell Toe Adidas to share one of my favorite memories of the 80s. Even so,

regardless of the time period, I still like to wear vintage stuff to remind myself of the styles that I grew up with (T. Williams, personal communication, Feb 27, 2021).

This again was definitely an interesting and eye-opening interview. I was born and raised in Brooklyn, and yet the similar fashions reflected where my wife was living, in the Bronx. We know that the 1980's was definitely focused on pop culture and hip-hop. Based on my wife's answers, we do see the mainstream and popular trends of the 80's. Shoulder pads which were related to the power suits, the retro colors of colorful shirts/sweaters, lace blouses in which lace was a big material, and others. All of these styles were significant to the 80's and the power of dressing up which influenced fashion choices. This style of dressing definitely influenced social class, as your appearance defined your "success."

Interestingly, when my wife discussed how her fashion changed, I thought about the life cycle of fashion. In the 1980's and through the 1990's, the trends and outfits my wife wore, were definitely widely accepted. Everyone was wearing the trends and the styles. However, as decades passed, certain fashion styles have become vintage to the point of incredibly low prices, and others have been rejected and forgotten. Keds, colored jeans, pleated pants, and more have all unfortunately gone through the cycle of fashion, once widely accepted and now obsolete. I also thought about her beliefs in which she noted that she's now older, so her values have shifted to motherly and more professional. Thus, she doesn't wear miniskirts or flashy accessories. It goes to show that there are times we need to fit into the group we're placed through fashion.

