

# Rags to Riches: A Lesson in Embellishing

Clothing Class Uses a Document Camera - Grades 10 -12

## **Objectives:**

Students will learn advanced skills in hand embroidery and garment embellishment.

Students will demonstrate their skills and save examples using the document camera.

## **Materials:**

Embroidery hoops, needles, embroidery thread, small squares of cloth, and the AVerVision CP300 Document Camera. (Later, students will bring in personal items of clothing and accessories to embellish.)

## **Background for the Lesson:**

Shoes, purses, belts, jackets, and jeans command high prices when they are embellished with embroidery and beads. The machine and handwork can distinguish and personalize the clothing worn by young people, and yet cost little for students working in a clothing class.

The lesson below encourages students to select an inexpensive item--perhaps even one purchased at a local thrift shop to learn hand embroidery skills.

Because the stitches can be quite small and include several steps, a document camera would aid the learning process. Fine quilters, for instance, may average 10 or more stitches per inch. Hand beading makes use of small, thin needles, so the magnifying ability of the lens would be an invaluable asset.

## **Steps in the Lesson:**

1. Show students samples of elaborate embroidery taken from fashion magazines. Engage the students by using the document camera feature that allows only part of the picture so students have to guess the prices. Students may be able to comment about costumes or fashion items they have seen as examples.
2. Using the document camera, show examples of hand embroidery done by the

instructor and/or guests. Point out and name some of the stitches.

3. With the camera magnifying the instruction, show students how to place fabric in a hoop and complete a few simple stitches such as an outline, a blanket stitch, and a flower petal.

4. Save the camera-based instruction images and load them on to the computer. Make the steps clear to students so they will be able to use the equipment themselves.

5. Divide the class into partnerships and assign one new embroidery embellishment stitch to each partnership. Distribute written/illustrated instructions and circulate to help students master the stitches. (An appropriate guide for beginning embroidery is Pocket Guide for Embroidery by Leisure Arts.)

6. When student groups have learned their stitches, they should use the document camera to demonstrate and create images of their examples. They would save their work to the computer so others can review the examples.

7. Have students select a simple item such as the hem of a pair of jeans, a head band, or the cuff of a shirt to embellish with embroidery. More advanced students may want to apply chalk or transfer patterns to jackets or purses as they expand their skills.

8. When students are working, they may want to display their work in progress for the class or for a small peer critique group for suggestions on color or additional decorations. For example, some students may want to add beading along with the stitches.

9. Use the zoom to examine the overall look of completed garments as well as the intricate work of various parts of the design.

10. Celebrate the achievements of the class by displaying finished products in the showcase and providing digital images for the high school newspaper.