

Emma Winship Knows What's in Fashion

By Sheri Donahue

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Emma Winship is a first-year student at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. She is in the process of switching into the journalism program from her current major, agricultural communication.

Originally, Winship was interested in majoring in communication studies when applying to Cal Poly but was advised by her college counselor to apply under agricultural communication, due to the difficulty of being accepted into her original choice.

Upon arriving at Cal Poly, she decided to switch into journalism because she didn't like agricultural communication. When asked about her decision to switch Winship said, "I don't want to go into a career that I'm not passionate about."

Winship is very passionate about both fashion and sustainability. One of her goals is to go into fashion journalism because she believes that journalism is one of the best ways to communicate the importance of sustainability in the fashion industry.

Her dream job is to be an editor at Vogue, but short-term she would be interested in working for a smaller start-up or brand that practices sustainability, like Frankies Bikinis. Even though this avenue wouldn't be as lucrative, in her opinion, she thinks that it would be a good starting place for her career after graduating from Cal Poly.

She values working for a company that shares similar beliefs with her and is working to make fashion better for the planet. Her philosophy revolves around this statement: "Everyone has to wear clothes, so why not find a way to make it more sustainable?"

Winship also expressed her disdain for excess consumption, especially with regards to clothing, and how prevalent it has become in recent years. "It's scary, I don't want to be trapped in the machine that is capitalism and consumerism."

Despite her eagerness to work in the fashion world, Winship decided against going to a fashion school for her higher education. "I believe in my ability to expand my opportunities based on my passions, I don't need a degree in fashion to do fashion," Winship said. During her time at Cal Poly, she hopes to study abroad at a fashion intensive program in Florence.

Having started her first year of college during the pandemic, Winship felt that because of online classes, "we aren't really getting a college experience."

She also discussed her experience with how impacted the classes at Cal Poly have been. "It hasn't been too awful getting into courses, I only missed out on two," although she mentioned how others in her grade were not as lucky.

1. Given you have only one source (your classmate) who else would you want to interview to make a more complete profile?

I might want to interview Emma's close friends or roommates to get a better sense of what she is like as a person from someone who knows her really well. I think it's hard to capture someone's true personality from a brief interview with pretty straightforward questions, but I enjoy reading profile interviews that give us a peek into what makes someone unique, besides their interests.

2. What other sources would you explore or what research would you do to learn more about your interview partner? (You may have done this already for your story).

I think I would research what she did in high school, like the clubs or extracurriculars she was involved in when she was attending school in person, because I think right now it is hard to participate in activities like that, which I think can help you get a better picture of what someone is interested in.